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THE INDEPENDENT

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IOC expels six as bribe row grows

SIX MEMBERS of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) were last night suspended with a recommendation that they should be expelled over "inappropriate behaviour" in the bidding process for the 2002 Winter Olympic Games.

The cases of three other members will continue to be investigated and a warning has been issued to one other member, all in connection with the successful bid for the games by Salt Lake City.

It was also announced that investigations would be widened into conduct involved in the bidding for previous games, and that the process of choosing an Olympic city will now be reformed to try to prevent further abuse of the system.

Juan Antonio Samaranch, IOC president, while making the announcement said that a further resignation had been received from another of those implicated in the scandal, to go with those of two members who resigned last week.

He called on the six named last night to go voluntarily in order to close this sad chapter in Olympic history. "They have done great harm to the Olympic ideal," he said. "Their greatest service now would be to simply accept their fate."

Dick Pound, the Canadian IOC vice-president who led the special committee conducting the investigation, said that their activities did not amount to bribery or corruption. They

BY JOHN DAVISON
in Lausanne

had all, however, broken the Olympic oath which they took on joining the IOC.

What they had done, he said, amounted more to an "exercise of bad judgement".

"It was more asking for things. For assistance given that amounted to an abuse of their position, a position that could possibly decide the fate of a bidding city."

Of the six, four are from Africa and two from South America. Most prominent among them is Jean-Claude Ganga, from the Congo, who is president of the Association of National Olympic Committees of Africa. He is also said to have been a close ally of Samaranch in his courting of support from Third World countries.

Ganga is a former ambassador to China. He was one of three African members said to have received a total of \$28,000 worth of free medical services from companies that became the health care provider for the 2002 games. He is also said to have made a \$60,000 profit on a land deal arranged by people associated with the Salt Lake City bid.

Other African members are: Zein El Abdin Abdel Gadir from Sudan; Lamine Keita (Mali); and Charles Nderitu Mukora (Kenya). The additional member who resigned is David S. Sibanza, of Swaziland.

Sergio Santander Fantini,

from Chile, an IOC member since 1992 and president of the Chilean Olympic Committee, denies taking a \$10,000 donation from Salt Lake City to help finance his re-election campaign as mayor of Santiago.

He, for one, is not intending to go quietly. Yesterday, before the results of the inquiry were announced, he said: "I don't think I am guilty. I am not going to quit. If I were forced out that would be very difficult for me. But the truth will appear."

Agustin Carlos Arroyo is a former private secretary to the president of Ecuador, and has been an IOC member since 1968. His stepdaughter worked for the Utah state government and the Salt Lake City Olympic Bid Committee. She is also said to have received help while attending a school in Texas.

Investigations are to continue into Kim Un-yong, from South Korea. If he were to be expelled, he would be the biggest fish to be caught in the investigative net - as he is a member of the IOC's ruling executive board.

Vitaly Smirnov, from Russia, and Louis Guiraudou-N'Diaye, from the Ivory Coast, are also still under scrutiny. Anton Geesink, from Holland, was given a warning yesterday after he admitted receiving a donation of \$5,000 from the Salt Lake City organisers to a private foundation. He said he had never asked for the money.

Low farce, page 3



Juan Antonio Samaranch, the president of the International Olympic Committee, at a meeting in Lausanne, Switzerland, yesterday, when six members of the committee were suspended. AP/Michel Euler

Living cells to be made from scratch

BY STEVE CONNOR AND CHARLES ARTHUR

A LEADING EXPERT on genetics is poised to create a totally synthetic life-form using artificial genes - a feat that, if successful, would mark a giant scientific leap forward.

Craig Venter, an American scientist and pioneer in the drive to unravel the human genetic blueprint, said his project could have practical benefits but acknowledged that the experiment has serious ethical implications.

He told the American Association for the Advancement of Science, in Los Angeles, that he has asked a body of religious leaders and ethicists to consider the moral implications of making a synthetic organism.

Dr Venter's plans are based on genes taken from *Mycoplasma genitalia*, a parasite which makes its home in human reproductive organs. It is the simplest life-form yet found, and is made up of just 470 genes, compared to the estimated 80,000 in human DNA.

Research has established that just 300 of the microbe's genes are essential to its existence, although it is unclear what function 100 of these perform.

Now Dr Venter, head of Celera Genomics, wants to synthesise these 300 genes and get them to make their own self-replicating cells. "We're trying to understand the minimum set of genes necessary to comprise a living cell," he said.

The idea drew a mixed reception from other scientists. "It is technically feasible, and it would be a daring piece of genetic engineering," said Steve Jones, professor of genetics at University College London. "The thing about nature, though, is that it has ways of being more complicated than we think."

Professor Richard Dawkins, author of *The Selfish Gene*, said: "Synthesising life in a test tube would be a blow to the religious view that there's something special about life. But this is no different in concept from genetic modification of an existing life-form."

However, John Durant, professor of public understanding of science at Imperial College, London, said: "One can see potential benefits, but also potential risks. This work should be done in a very secure environment, like that for working with dangerous pathogens."

Association reports, page 5

MI6 officers worked in Iraq as UN inspectors

MI6 OFFICERS worked under cover in Iraq as part of the United Nations team of arms inspectors looking for chemical and biological weapons, an Independent investigation has revealed. The disclosure follows admissions that US spies had worked in the Uncom teams.

Sources in Whitehall and at the UN in New York say MI6 first infiltrated the UN Weapons Inspectorate soon after it was set up in 1991.

"A number of officers were asked if they were interested in the posting. One officer joined for a period," said a source. Some officers are thought to

BY PAUL LASHMAR
AND DAVID USBORNE
in New York

have been rotated through the teams.

Norman Baker, a Liberal Democrat MP, has put down a series of questions for Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, and the Defence Secretary, George Robertson, due to be answered today, on whether British intelligence officers were involved in Uncom.

He said last night: "I would be very, very angry if the independence and integrity of the Uncom was compromised in

this way. To include MI6 and Ministry of Defence intelligence staff deliberately in the UN teams is to undermine the UN itself."

Uncom teams were recruited from many states, usually chosen for a specialisation in areas of nuclear, chemical and biological warfare and communications.

The inspectors found that Iraq had a far more elaborate concealment system than had been supposed.

Uncom decided it needed to break the Iraqi wall of secrecy and turned to the intelligence communities of several coun-

tries, notably the US, Britain and Israel. They supplied Uncom with experts in espionage - that is, spies.

Earlier this month some American newspapers, citing anonymous US officials, reported that intelligence officers had been passed to Washington for its own use. Some of the information, they said, had been used to identify targets in last month's British and American attacks on Iraq.

Most controversial have been reports that the US supplied Uncom with an eavesdropping device to tap Iraqi



officers' communications. Sources say the US demanded overall control of the machine and made sure all data re-

ceived was shown only to experts from a narrow club of states. Explicitly barred were Israel, France and Russia. Those with full access reportedly came from just four countries: the US, Australia, New Zealand and Britain.

British Uncom members were recruited by the Foreign Office, which said: "We don't comment on intelligence matters." But *The Independent* has established that the British group included intelligence officers, using diplomatic cover to gather intelligence independently.

Asked by *The Independent*

for a list of British inspectors, the Foreign Office and Uncom both refused.

"We do not have the staff available to compile such a list," said the Uncom spokesman, Euan Dungannon, in New York. A Foreign Office spokesman said: "We do not have such a list."

A US F-15 fighter attacked an Iraqi missile installation in the northern no-fly zone yesterday. A Pentagon spokesman said the F-15 fired in self-defence after aircraft enforcing the no-fly zone were tracked by Iraqi radar. There was no damage to US aircraft, he said.

INSIDE THIS SECTION

Blair fury at newspaper Tony Blair protested to the PCC over a story about his daughter's new school Home P2

Stephen Lawrence Interview with the friend who saw him murdered Home P5

Tusa accuses Arts Council John Tusa attacked the Arts Council for refusing to give Lottery cash to the Barbican Home P8

Clinton trial Monica Lewinsky's return changes everything Foreign P9

Mob kills missionary A man and his two young sons were burnt to death in India as they slept in their car Foreign P11

Kosovo rebels freed Nine ethnic Albanians were released in a secret deal Foreign P11

Aid urged for small firms Business leaders call on the Chancellor to use the Budget for £1bn boost for small firms Business P12

Red card for Petit Arsenal's Emmanuel Petit was sent off in Wolves match Sport P26

INSIDE THE REVIEW

Deborah Ross Meet Jimmy Boyle, the hard man of sculpture who is partial to Donna Karan Review Front

Andrew Marshall Bill, Monica and why the Republicans have already lost Comment P4

Up the trouser leg What the best-dressed farret in town is wearing this season Features P8

Cleaning up in Goa The war on drugs in every hippie's favourite paradise Features P9

Shape of Arts to Come David Bintley of Birmingham Royal Ballet is our man for ballet in the 21st century Arts P10

Going underground The strange strip-lit world of subterranean e-commerce Network P13



TODAY'S TELEVISION PAGE 18

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WINTER GERMS ARE BACK

RELAXON DOUBLE ACTION

HELP YOUR IMMUNE SYSTEM GIVE MAXIMUM PROTECTION FROM COLDS AND FLU

Independent record labels roll over as the conglomerates go rocking on

BY ANDREW GUMBEL
in Los Angeles

THE END was not unexpected, but it was brutal and quick. When the 170 employees of A&M records - the label that gave the world Joe Cocker, Cat Stevens, Supertramp and the Police - turned up for work last Thursday, they were told they were all fired and had until the end of the day to clear their desks.

As the doors closed for the last time on the label's Hollywood office, employees hugged and wept in the car park. Sheryl Crow, one of the label's more recent stars, turned up to commiserate. Someone wrapped a black banner round the company's trademark signpost on La Brea Avenue. A 37-year era of independent music production reached the end of its final track.

A&M has become the latest, and most illustrious victim of a major shake-up in the record industry, in which the once-thriving independent sector is being eaten up by corporate giants with terrifying speed.

For the past decade, A&M had operated as a largely autonomous arm of PolyGram Entertainment, but that came to an end last month when PolyGram was bought for a staggering \$10.4bn (\$6.3bn) by Seagram, the Canadian drinks conglomerate that has decided to move forthrightly into the entertainment business.

The deal gave Seagram control not only of A&M, but also of a clutch of other labels, including Geffen Records, Motown, Mercury and Island. More than 100 have lost their jobs at Geffen and a further 200 at the other three labels, all based on the US East coast. In all, as much as 20 per cent of PolyGram's 15,000 employees are expected to be laid off, and about 250 bands and solo artists will lose their contracts.

Such savage cutbacks have an easy business rationale: many of the smaller labels have been struggling for years, largely as a result of taking on too many loss-making bands, and Seagram - which also owns Universal Studios - hopes that a leaner operation with extra-



FOUNDED

WHY IT WAS GREAT

WHERE IT STANDS NOW

IT'S ONLY ROCK AND ROLL - THE SEAGRAM MUSIC EMPIRE

A & M

ISLAND

MOTOWN

GEFFEN

MERCURY



Founded in 1962 by producer Jerry Moss and jazz trumpeter Herb Alpert. (left)

Its first hit, The Lonely Bull, by Alpert and the Tijuana Brass, was the impetus for signing artists like Joe Cocker, Carole King, and Burt Bacharach. Later came Supertramp, the Police and Janet Jackson. Brief flirtation with the Sex Pistols in 70's

Retained its identity within PolyGram for ten years until the recent Seagram takeover when only the trumpet symbol survived a new management team and absorption by Interscope Records.



Founded 1959 by white Jamaican Chris Blackwell as specialist ska label. Within a decade was world's largest independent record company.

After his first hit in 1964 with Millie's My Boy Lollipop, Blackwell discovered Steve Winwood, and signed Bob Marley and Roky Music in the 70's U2 in the 80's, and the Cranberries and Pulp in the 90's.

Sold to PolyGram in 1989. Blackwell remained as chairman in 1997 prior to Seagram take-over. Fantastic back catalogue, but current roster, apart from co-owners U2, is poor. Uncertain future.



Emerged from the Detroit jazz and blues scene when Berry Gordy set up a recording studio under his apartment in 1959.

Changed the face of popular music with artists like Diana Ross and the Supremes, Stevie Wonder, Marvin Gaye and the Jackson Five. The Motown Sound was the definitive 60's and 70's "hit factory"

Said to have lost its edge since it moved to Los Angeles in 1972, its future as a separate entity must be in doubt without new artists. Now largely a back catalogue "heritage" label.



Founded in 1980 by David Geffen, millionaire behind Asylum Records and manager for Laura Nyro and Crosby, Stills & Nash

The most successful independent label, a bastion of American Adult Orientated Rock, its stars included Guns N' Roses and Peter Dinklage. Also released John Lennon's last album Double Fantasy.

Sold to PolyGram in 1990 and now likely to become, like A & M, little more than a logo. But a solid performer now it has diversified from AOR to acts like Nirvana and Beck.



Founded in 1947 in the United States, it is the oldest of the Seagram labels. Purchased in 1961 by Philips.

All Rod Stewart's early serious solo albums were released on Mercury. More recently it became the home of Metallica, INXS, Page and Plant, Bon Jovi, Boyzone and Elvis Costello.

Should survive as a separate label. Another good back catalogue coupled with currently popular artists like the resurgent James and Texas and hipper acts such as Roni Size & Reprazent.

ordinary economies of scale can produce a surge in corporate profits.

But for the producers and artists at the receiving end of such cold business logic, it feels as though the industry's soul has been savaged.

"I don't think their bottom line has much to do with music or artists. It's very black and white," said Herb Alpert, the jazz trumpeter who co-founded A&M back in 1962.

Already, he said, after the takeover by PolyGram "it was hard to make a decision like we used to... just from the gut, based on feeling, not whether an artist might be able to sell oodles of records".

"The Lonely Bull", by Alpert and the Tijuana Brass, provided A&M with its first hit, and gave it the confidence to sign up such names as Carole King, Burt Bacharach, Joe Cocker, Cat Stevens and the Carpenters. Later stars included Supertramp, the Police and Janet Jackson.

A&M will not disappear altogether: its familiar trumpet symbol will continue to appear on records and discs, but as little more than a corporate logo under an entirely new management team.

Both A&M and Geffen will be absorbed by Interscope Records, a successful former indie operation in its own right,

responsible for the rap stars Dr Dre and Tupac Shakur, among others. The net result will be similar to the new landscape in the film industry, where artistically vigorous independent production companies that once posed a real challenge to the big studios have been bought up and turned into so-called "mini-majors" - slicker, but generally blander subsidiaries of large corporate holdings.

"This isn't about Universal or Seagram," the outgoing head of A&M, Al Calafato, said about his own firing. "The record business is changing fundamentally. Don't think that there are calm seas on the other side of

this threshold... It's a Wall Street world now. Get ready."

The record business now boils to down to five big conglomerates, and that could be reduced to four if rumours of a buyout of EMI Group by BMG are substantiated.

What industry professionals most fear is that what remains of diversity and originality there is in popular music will be snuffed out for the sake of making easy, unchallenging money-spinners. In other words, more Take That and Spice Girls clones. Serious artists have already found it difficult over the past decade or so to hold on to their integrity and resist the pressure to commercialise.

It has been a long process of rationalisation, dateable back perhaps to the worldwide record-buying recession of the late Seventies. For a while, the industry sought to buoy itself by introducing new formats, with varying degrees of success. Compact Disc took off only slowly in the mid-Eighties. Minidisc was a conspicuous flop when introduced at the end of that decade.

In Britain, the independent rock sector is now struggling badly. Only long-established, relatively copper-bottomed indie labels such as Beggar's Banquet/4AD and the roots and reissue label Rykodisc have much of a profile these days. And though there remains a relatively healthy underground

dance music industry, it is a sector that does not tender to the album-buying market and is therefore small beer in terms of turnover and sustainability.

Over recent years, the major labels have sought to bridge the gap between the indie ethos and the mass market by running pseudo-independent "boutique" labels, which appeal to specialist tastes and work both as an artists-and-repertoire engine for the big labels and as "cool" branding for otherwise uncool mega-corporations.

Meanwhile, the majors have been investing more and more in "new media", looking to exploit the potential of the Internet.

They run Intranets to maximise their internal efficiency and Extranets to bring their products to market. This, say informed sources, is how major record companies see the future.

"The history of the record business is filled with stories of artists, from the Beatles to Garth Brooks to Alanis Morissette, who were turned down by label after label until they finally found someone who saw something unique and was willing to take a chance on signing them," lamented Robert Hilburn in the Los Angeles Times at the weekend. "Every time you close a label door, it reduces the odds for that special artist to find a champion."

Song ban 'amuses' McCartney



Sir Paul: Placing adverts for his late wife's song

SIR PAUL McCartney will today release a single and video by his late wife, Linda, despite a blanket ban on all airplay by radio and television stations because the song contains a profanity.

In a row which seems to be going on for ages, Sir Paul is also taking out an advertisement in *The Independent* and other media urging parents to support his stance.

Sir Paul said last night that he was amused by the ban, though associates said that he was also angry, particularly with his record company, EMI, which has insisted on releasing the single, "The Light Comes

BY DAVID LISTER
Arts News Editor

From Within", with a "parental guidance" sticker warning of explicit lyrics. "I find it all very funny," Sir Paul said. "I don't think it's annoying. I think it's hilarious. After all, people do use the word on the telly and on the radio too... In what age are we living? Is this the Nineties or is it the Twenties?"

Sir Paul's tongue-in-cheek advertisement asks parents to give their "guidance" on whether children will be "morally corrupted" by the controversial line in the song.

In the advert, he says: "Should you decide that your children must not hear this record we would be grateful for your wisdom and good sense and will put our fingers in our ears whenever we hear it played."

"If, on the other hand, you feel that no harm will come to your children by being exposed to this song, give the guidance so sorely needed and tell them it's okay to do so."

The offending lyric, which was believed to be Linda McCartney's last retort to critics, says: "You say I'm simple, you say I'm a dick - you're fucking no one, you stupid dick."

High on a hill, lofty ideals are exposed as low farce

THE OLYMPIC Museum in Lausanne was the perfect stage for Juan Antonio Samaranch, chairman of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), to make his ground-breaking announcement last night.

In a stunning hilltop setting overlooking Lake Geneva, the dazzling white building is Mr Samaranch's greatest physical legacy to the movement he has headed for almost 20 years, and the realisation of a personal dream. When it was opened in 1994, the man who likes to be known as "His Excellency" was at the height of his power.

Outside, the Flame burns brightly. But inside is one visual cue to the scandal sweeping through the Olympic movement. In a cabinet is a jewelled sabbre given to Mr Samaranch by the President of Kazakhstan. Next to it is a sculpture of two embracing athletes entitled "Fair Play". It is the collision between the reality of gifts and notions of fair play which has brought the organisation to its moral knees.

Findings by the Special Investigative Committee, set up to investigate the awarding of the 2002 Winter Games to Salt Lake City, have revealed levels of venality among IOC mem-

JOHN DAVIDSON
in Lausanne

bers which have shocked believers in the Olympic ideals.

As the debate continues over how far corruption has spread, one fact is clear: it is Mr Samaranch who brought all this about. When he took over in 1980 the Games were in trouble. That year's event in Moscow had been boycotted by the United States, while in 1976 the Montreal Games had lost millions. Only two cities competed to stage the next one in 1984.

At an IOC meeting in Germany in 1981 Mr Samaranch teamed up with Horst Dassler, heir to the Adidas empire, to create a global marketing strategy. The five interlocking rings were not just to be seen as an aspiration towards world peace and understanding through sport, they were to be a brand.

The strategy at first seemed to be a resounding success. The 1984 Los Angeles Games were spectacular, with makers of everything from photographic film to fizzy drinks being charged millions for carrying the logo. The event made a profit for backers of \$220m (£133m). In 1985, six bidders wanted



Samaranch: Designed the global marketing strategy

the 1992 games. Barcelona, Mr Samaranch's home town, won. But from then, cities started to put serious efforts into swinging the votes of IOC members. As well as lavish hospitality, the gifts began to flow. In 1986, the situation was such that a limit was imposed of \$150 for gifts per member in the later stages of the bidding, \$50 in earlier stages. The limits include gifts to all relatives, and a ban on entering into any "agreements, transactions or any other contracts".

These are the rules that Salt Lake City stands accused of violating. But it had been trying to get the Games since 1984. The final straw must have come in 1991, when it was trying yet again, only to be beaten by Nagano for the right to stage last year's Winter Olympics.

Nagano had no existing facilities and indifferent snow, but it did have Yoshiaki Tsutsun, one of the world's richest men. And he brought together 19 Japanese companies to contribute \$20m to the building of the Olympic Museum.

To all accusations of him being personally swayed in IOC decisions by gifts, Mr Samaranch replies that he does not have a vote himself. But he does have a huge say on who becomes an IOC member. When finally cornered earlier this month over having received an engraved pistol and rifle from Salt Lake City, valued at about \$2,000, his response was that all his gifts were accepted on behalf of the Olympic movement and would eventually be displayed in the museum.

One wonders whether there would be enough room in his museum to accommodate all the largesse extended to him.

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Hay
hapi
supr

Ginola

It was the night of a
great match. The whole
city was out. The
atmosphere was
electric. The game
was a thriller. The
score was 2-1. The
winner was the
home team. The
goal was scored by
Ginola. The crowd
went wild. The
celebrations were
in full swing. The
players were
hugging each other.
The fans were
cheering. The
night was magical.

Kidd's a
the fortu

It was a great thing
for him as he makes his
debut in management. He
may not be a tactical
genius but there is no doubt
he is smiling on him.
Like his predecessors at
Blackburn, Ray Harford and
Ray Hodgson, his luck does not
seem to improve but, unlike the
managerial ghosts of the past,
the results are going in his
favor. Who needs most of your
time if you can get away
from the FA Cup travesty like
this?
Throughout this game there
was a Premiership-class team
in blue and white halves.
The underdog, the runaway lead-
er of the First Division, were
the better side, yet some-
times they managed to bow out
early that was their own
fault. Because their reluctance
to play their master class in
front of the fans, they fell
short. That seemed to have run out
when Blackburn had Jeff
Straker sent off after 62 minutes
for two bootable offences and
their goalkeeper John Fildes

مكتبة الامم

'I saw Stephen killed and the suspects go free'

DWAYNE BROOKS, the young man who was with Stephen Lawrence when he was murdered, has told *The Independent* that he blames himself for his friend's death.

Duwayne said that he should have persuaded Stephen to take a different route home, avoiding the fatal encounter with the racist gang that stabbed him in the street.

In his first newspaper interview since the start of the public inquiry into Stephen's death, Mr Brooks recalled the night of the murder in April 1993, when the two schoolfriends were making their way home after visiting Stephen's uncle, Martin Lindo.

During a journey that involved several buses, they boarded one in Eltham, south-east London. Duwayne's plan was to stay on until the terminus in Blackheath, but Stephen wanted to alight after a couple of stops and pick up another bus that was more direct.

Duwayne gave in, a decision that still haunts him, for it was after the two 18-year-olds got off again in Eltham that Stephen was attacked. "I should have talked him that night," he said.

"We were the same age, the same height and build, but I was the stronger personality. If I had made him stay on the bus, he would still be here today. There are times when I blame myself for what happened."

For most of the past six years, Mr Brooks, now 24, has suffered from post-traumatic stress disorder. After witnessing Stephen's murder at close quarters, he was treated as a suspect by Metropolitan Police officers at the scene.

Although clearly in great distress, he was given no sympathy, not even asked whether he was injured. Instead, officers demanded to know if he was carrying a weapon. Information that he gave them about the attack was disregarded.

Later - although he made nine statements and attended

By KATHY MARKS

three identification parades - police privately vilified him as aggressive and unco-operative.

Mr Brooks was too upset to give evidence at the public inquiry, which is expected to present its report to Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, next week.

But over the past few months, with the help of family and friends, he has begun to emerge from his shell.

"I have lost six years of my life," he said. "I didn't experience those years: there were



Stephen Lawrence: Killed aged 18 in Eltham in 1993

so many things that I didn't do. I didn't go out, I didn't live life to the full. I was like a recluse, I just stayed at home, watching TV."

Duwayne is now studying at college and has a part-time job. He is reluctant to talk about these aspects of his life, or to divulge much information about the people who are important to him.

"If I go out somewhere with a girlfriend, I class myself as a liability," he said. "I feel that it's not so likely that those boys [the suspects] would do something to me. But I worry about my close friends, my girlfriend, my family. That's why they keep

themselves to themselves."

Through media reports, Duwayne kept up with events at the public inquiry, and watched the five - Jamie Acourt, Neil Acourt, Gary Dobson, Luke Knight and David Norris - swagger out after giving evidence.

"I felt like they were mocking me, they were mocking the Lawrences, and they were mocking the inquiry," he said.

Talking about the events of the past six years appears to have had a cathartic effect on Duwayne. He recently went to see *The Colour of Justice*, an acclaimed dramatisation of the public inquiry staged at the Tricycle Theatre in London.

He remembers Stephen as "a good person, very kind, very trusting", and recalls their friendship with nostalgia. "We used to play football together and chat to girls," he said. "I miss him, because he would still be one of my group of friends."

Duwayne is now awaiting the report of Sir William Macpherson, the inquiry chairman. What he most wants is some kind of recommendation that prevents police "from being above the law". He is disgusted that senior officers in the Lawrence case were able to retire and are now immune from sanction.

"I saw my best friend butchered, I saw the suspects free to roam the streets, and no one is taking the blame," he said. "The whole disciplinary system is a waste of time."

Duwayne still fizzes with anger about the way that he was treated. The irony is that, despite receiving an apology from the Metropolitan Police, he still suffers from the police's negative stereotype of young black men.

He has been stopped and searched on several occasions, most recently in central London last week. "That's the reality of life in London," he said. "You drive a car that's too nice, you get stopped. I see racism every day. Nothing has changed."



Duwayne Brooks, who was stopped and searched last week: 'Nothing has changed'

BBC Newsnight

National union for black police

By JASON BENNETTO
Crime Correspondent

THE FIRST national trade union for black and Asian policemen and women has been set up to counter discrimination against non-white officers.

The National Black Police Association is expected to be launched formally within a few months, and is likely to attract members from forces throughout the country.

An interim executive, with representatives from the seven existing BPAs, is drawing up plans for the national launch. They already have an office, based at the Home Office.

Chief Inspector Ali Dizaei of Thames Valley police, vice-chairman of the NBPA, writing in the *Police Review*, said: "Many black police officers experience considerable suspicion and hostility when they stand up and discuss issues of discrimination and racism."

"It is not uncommon for their competence or motives to be questioned when they genuinely and passionately believe things are not right."

The NBPA could resolve some of these issues if police forces are willing to be pragmatic and co-operative.

He added that in a recent study of non-white officers, almost half said they had been stopped and questioned while off duty by police unaware they were talking to fellow officers.

"Thirteen per cent stated they were not treated with respect. This... unequivocally illustrates that the experience of these officers is different."

The national organisation has the backing of Jack Straw, the Home Secretary. He is pressing for chief constables to recruit, retain and promote more black and Asian officers.

However, not all black officers are enthusiastic. Inspector Paul Wilson, chairman of the Metropolitan police BPA, said he was concerned at how far the Home Office would be involved. He said: "We are supportive in principle, but have yet to consult our members and would wish to ensure that any national body fairly reflects the concerns of the Met BPA."

American Association: Trials planned on drug to fight tumours

Scorpion venom can kill some brain cancer cells

By STEVE CONNOR
in California

A TOXIN from the venom of a scorpion has been found to attack human cancer cells yet leave healthy tissue unharmed, according to scientists who have applied to begin clinical trials with the drug later this year.

Laboratory tests on the tumour cells of a rare form of brain cancer have revealed that the toxin - a protein fragment known as a peptide - can distinguish between healthy and cancerous cells and so act as a "magic bullet" for killing diseased tissue while leaving the rest of the body unaffected.

Scientists believe the research could lead to a treatment for a form of brain cancer called glioma, which kills thousands of people each year, and it might be further developed to treat other types of tumours.

Professor Harald Sontheimer, a neurobiologist at the University of Alabama in Birmingham, told the meeting of the American Association for



The giant Israeli scorpion: poison can help fight cancer

the Advancement of Science in Los Angeles it was surprising to find that the venom of the giant Israeli scorpion, *Leiurus quinquestriatus*, worked against cancerous glial cells, which act as the brain's packing material to support its nerve cells.

"Interestingly, during the course of evolution, a lot of animals have developed peptides in their venom which shut down the nervous system of their prey - what better way to catch their food. We know for instance that the same peptide

paralyzes cockroaches," Professor Sontheimer said.

The scorpion toxin also targets the "molecular batteries" of human glial cells, which allow the cells of a developing embryo to shrink and so migrate around the brain. These batteries normally stop functioning once a brain has developed but are re-activated in a glioma, causing the cancer to spread.

"One of the problems this disease has is that although surgeons routinely remove these tumours, by the time they are detected cells have mi-

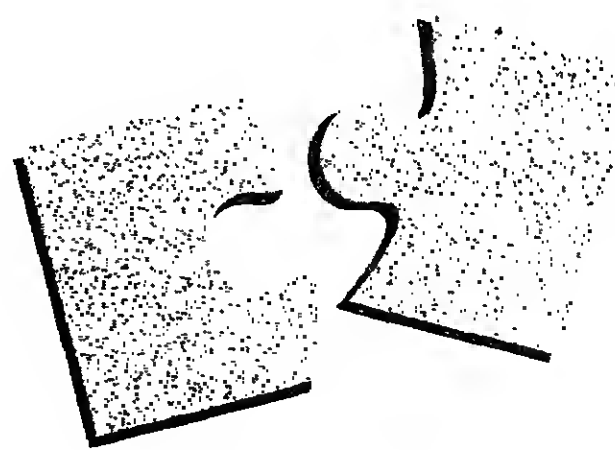
grated away and have essentially infested the entire brain... the chances of the tumour re-occurring is essentially 100 per cent," the professor said.

The scientists plan to make the toxin even more lethal to tumour cells by binding it with additional poisons or radioactive substances. Trials on patients will begin once the United States Food and Drug Administration gives the drug a licence later this year, Professor Sontheimer said.

"Glioma is the deadliest form of cancer known, without any treatment possibilities at the moment. This gives us an opportunity to use this peptide, and its high affinity to bind to these cells, to take deadly poisons to these cells, for example we can make these molecules radioactive giving us the opportunity to do targeted radiation treatment," he said.

"The binding of the peptide to the tumour also stops the cells' ability to move around the brain and so consolidate the tumour to where it is," he added.

easy@demon[no.5]



piece together the jigsaw.

Call to stockpile vaccines against rise of bioterrorism

A SENIOR scientist has warned that the consequences of bioterrorism are so dire that governments must build up stockpiles of antibiotics, vaccines and antiviral drugs to combat the threat.

Frank Young, a former commissioner with the American Food and Drug Administration and an expert on biological weapons, said that the public discussions of bioterrorism is likely to generate hysteria but this is no excuse to do nothing.

"Any discussion of biological

By STEVE CONNOR

warfare and bio-terrorism is likely to evoke great fears on one hand and disbelief on the other," he said. "I would emphasise that the possibility of bioterrorism is a low probability event... But the consequences are so grave it would be unthinkable not to be prepared."

One of the main areas of concern is being able to distinguish quickly between a natural outbreak of a contagious disease and an epidemic gen-

erated by a biological weapon, Dr Young said.

He cited the recent outbreak in the US of Hanta virus - potentially lethal in humans. It took experts nearly a week to ascertain that it was a natural emergence of the disease.

Dr Young said there are three areas that governments must address to lessen the threat of bioterrorism: further development of new antibiotics and vaccines, enhanced civil defence and initiatives to negotiate a meaningful international treaty.

Craig Venter, a leading American geneticist, said unravelling the genetic blueprints of dangerous organisms will help to deter attempts to engineer microbes for use as biological weapons. "There is no way we can easily distinguish between a bioterrorism event and an emerging pathogen [disease-causing microbe]. Virtually every human pathogen is something that can be used as a bioterrorism tool. We need better diagnostic tools to distinguish between them," he said.

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Homosexual rights campaigners Andy Rouilland and Jamie Loughlin in St Peter Port, the capital of Guernsey

Geoff Brehaut

Guernsey may legalise gay sex at 16

BY KATHY MARKS

THE FIERCELY conservative island of Guernsey could become the first place in Britain to legalise gay sex at 16 after a vote this week on reducing the age of consent.

As MPs at Westminster prepare to debate the issue again today, self-governing Guernsey - where the homosexual age of consent is still 21 - has decided to go it alone.

A private member's Bill to decriminalise gay sex at 16 will be brought before the States of Deliberation, the island's parliament, on Wednesday, together with an amendment that would lower the age to 18.

But plans to liberalise the law have split the close-knit

Channel Islands community and sparked warnings that Guernsey will become a holiday destination for paedophiles.

For right-wing States deputies like Peter Bougourd, the Bill is the first step toward turning the island into a modern-day Sodom and Gomorrah. "To legalise is to normalise, and buggery ain't normal," said Mr Bougourd last weekend.

Harold Allen, another deputy, agreed. "At the moment, the homosexual thing is a small problem here; it's the few," he said. "My concern is that, if this law is passed, it will become the many."

Mr Allen is proud of Guernsey's tradition of stubborn resistance to social reform. Abortion was legalised in the Crown dependency only two years ago, and the States have yet to ratify an EU convention on equal pay.

The private member's Bill is the fruit of a campaign by the island's fledgling gay rights movement. For Carol Steere, author of the Bill, the age of consent issue is about human rights. "I find it unacceptable that young men are being treated as criminals," she said.

These young men are now raising their heads above the parapet for the first time. Braving bigotry and harassment, they have formed a pressure group and taken part in radio and television debates. They have even persuaded a harbour-side pub to host a gay night once a week.

Jamie Loughlin, 30, who works in the finance industry, believes that the visibility of the community is creating a new climate of tolerance.

"Until now, gay people in Guernsey always lived in the shadows," he said. "We are showing that we're real people, ordinary people, no different from anyone else."

Reform of the law is supported by local branches of the British Medical Association and the NSPCC children's charity. But this backing fails to impress the island's fundamentalist preachers, who have thundered from the pulpit about "unnatural practices" and warned about the vulnerability of impressionable young men. The Evangelical Alliance wrote to all States members last week to tell them that homosexuality was "an affront to God".

The Rev Eric Gaudion, minister of the Shiloh Baptist Church, quoted passages from the Bible and said that a change in the law would "send a signal to society that homosexual acts are equal to heterosexual acts".

At a public meeting last week, islanders were divided, and there was uproar when Pat Mellor, a politician sympathetic to Mrs Steere's bill, pointed out that buggery was not an exclusively homosexual practice.

On the mainland, a Bill to lower the age of consent will receive its second reading in the House of Commons today, after being thrown out by the Lords last year. The timetable for its passage is still uncertain.

In Guernsey, with many States deputies keeping their cards close to their chests, the result of Wednesday's debate is impossible to call. But Mr Loughlin is hopeful. "Guernsey has the opportunity to take the lead on one of the biggest equality issues facing society today," he said.

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IN BRIEF

Meat inspectors plan 24-hour strike

SUPPLIES OF meat will be disrupted next week when 1,000 inspectors at slaughterhouses throughout Britain stage a 24-hour strike. Unison, the public service workers' union, has agreed to a series of stoppages starting Tuesday, 2 February, after management refused to ratify a 4.7 per cent rise for meat inspectors.

Court case over missing girls

A 45-YEAR-OLD man is to appear before magistrates in Hastings charged with offences in connection with the disappearance of two 10-year-old girls. Alan Edward Hopkinson, of Eastbourne, faces charges including kidnapping and abduction and others relating to serious assault.

Watchdog gets tough on Channel 5

THE BROADCASTING watchdog is set to crack down on gratuitous sex scenes in a ruling which singled out late-night programmes on Channel 5. The Broadcasting Standards Commission will uphold complaints against the television station for broadcasting erotic films in the series "Hot Lines" and "Compromising Situations".

Ernie Wise has heart surgery

THE COMEDIAN Ernie Wise, 73, was last night "stable but critical" in a hospital in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, after undergoing a triple heart bypass operation. The surgery followed two heart attacks last month.

Single ticket takes Lottery jackpot

ONE TICKETHOLDER scooped Saturday night's National Lottery jackpot of £7.8m. The winning numbers were 1, 8, 10, 17, 32 and 47. The bonus number was 2.

STEVE RICHARDS



Wherever Hague turns to attack, a Tory lurks in the bushes

IN THE MONDAY REVIEW PAGE 3

ALTERATION TO INTEREST RATE

Notice of Variation

Alteration to interest rate on Visa, WorldWide MasterCard, National Canine Defence League MasterCard, Woodland Trust MasterCard and Conservative Party MasterCard cards.

The Royal Bank of Scotland announces that the standard monthly rate of interest charged on these cards will be reduced from 1.67% to 1.585% with effect from 1 February 1999. APR 21.9% purchases and APR 23.8% cash advances. The first year introductory rate for Visa and WorldWide MasterCard is unchanged.

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Prima d Premier

STAN COLLYMORE, the dis-
appearing Aston Villa striker,
was the only footballer ap-
parently not in a spot of
trouble. Amongst the
weekend's winners, Hull City
bottom of the Third Division
reportedly discovered a Col-
lins of Hull man in the 10-
year-old former Wimbledon
and Sheffield United mid-
fielder, who will be 36 in
April, had been hiding out his
long-term partner, Dave Rowell,
in Nottingham Forest's back was.

Hearts sink owner seek

THE UNUSUAL NAME of a
major player may be coming
back to haunt the Edinburgh
Hearts and Hibernian.
After watching their side
suffer a 1-0 defeat at Satur-
day, Hearts were looking for
a new owner. The club's
owner, James D. Watson, was
forced to resign after the Scot-
tish Football Federation was
ordered to investigate the club's
financial affairs. Watson was
also ordered to resign from his
position as chairman of the Scot-
tish Football Federation. The
club's financial problems have
been a long time in the making.

THE FA CUP

THIRD-ROUND REPLAY

See Centre 3. Sheffield United v. Arsenal

FOURTH ROUND

See Centre 3. Liverpool v. Arsenal

LEADING PREMIERSHIP

See Centre 3. Arsenal v. Liverpool

LEADING SCORERS

See Centre 3. Arsenal v. Liverpool

TODAY

See Centre 3. Arsenal v. Liverpool

TUESDAY

See Centre 3. Arsenal v. Liverpool

WEDNESDAY

See Centre 3. Arsenal v. Liverpool

THURSDAY

See Centre 3. Arsenal v. Liverpool

FRIDAY

See Centre 3. Arsenal v. Liverpool

SATURDAY

See Centre 3. Arsenal v. Liverpool

SUNDAY

See Centre 3. Arsenal v. Liverpool

Spurned Tusa accuses Arts Council

JOHN TUSA, managing director of London's Barbican Centre, has attacked the Arts Council for refusing to give his organisation Lottery money while being too friendly towards its rival, the South Bank Centre.

By DAVID LISTER
Arts News Editor

ter to him complained that he had failed to consult local craftspeople, apparently unaware that few local crafts workers are to be found.

The application by the Barbican, in the City of London, was one of the most modest yet made, for a £100,000 feasibility study to consult architects and designers on improving the centre's much-criticised foyers, signposting and circulation. The feasibility study

might then have led to a much larger application for a £7m award to put the changes into practice. But the bid was turned down by the Arts Council, the quango which distributes National Lottery money to the arts.

The South Bank Centre, by contrast, has so far received around £2m in Lottery money and has announced plans for a multi-million-pound sum to transform the centre, which currently houses the Royal Festival Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall, Purcell Room and Hay-

ward Gallery. It also receives £13.8m a year in running costs from the Arts Council.

The Barbican, by contrast, while home to the London Symphony Orchestra, the Royal Shakespeare Company and an art gallery, receives no annual grant from the Arts Council, although the LSO and RSC do. The centre itself receives £23m from the City of London Corporation.

Mr Tusa, a former head of the BBC World Service, said he felt that the council had become very close to London's

other major arts and conference centre and was refusing to see the Barbican as part of its arts strategy.

He added: "When we said that what we were proposing would be great value for money, the Arts Council assessor said: 'I'm not allowed to take into account considerations of value for money.' They also said we hadn't consulted local craftspeople enough. They didn't talk about the merits of the scheme."

The Barbican is seeking £15m towards a £30m revamp

of the foyers and main concert hall.

"For £4m-£5m you could make an internal change [in the foyer and bar areas] which transformed the place," Mr Tusa said. "The re-signage of six years ago didn't work. And a lot of people think the aesthetic of the decoration is wrong for the building. For £7m or £8m you could have a first-class concert hall. It's one of the cheapest investments in a major concert facility that could have that result."

"This place has changed. We have new audiences, better programming, and I don't think this has quite sunk in with the Arts Council. I think they have concentrated on what to do with the South Bank Centre. But if they say they are thinking strategically they have to take us into consideration. It seems to be difficult for them to wrench themselves from an exclusive concern for the South Bank Centre."

The Barbican's last, very successful year has seen a festival of American culture with concerts, plays and exhibi-

tions from leading American writers, musicians and artists. The Tusa plan would change the signage so that visitors could find their way around more easily, relocate the box office, bars and retail outlets, and update the concert hall.

An Arts Council spokeswoman said the council did not make public reasons for turning down a Lottery application, but clients and non-clients were given equal priority, and the Barbican could apply again in a future phase of Lottery funding.

Field backs Tories over slower Ulster prisoner releases

By COLIN BROWN
Chief Political Correspondent

THE FORMER Labour minister Frank Field is backing Tory calls for prisoner releases in Northern Ireland to slowed down in protest at punishment beatings by paramilitary groups.

Mr Field, who resigned from Tony Blair's government in July last year, is supporting a call by Harry Barnes, a Labour backbench peace campaigner, for a meeting at Downing Street to air their objections before a Tory-led debate in the Commons on Wednesday.

The two MPs have tabled a Commons motion saying the release of IRA and loyalist paramilitary prisoners should be "slowed up as a political sanction against a cynically and centrally organised regime of increasingly brutal beatings, shootings, murder, exiling and intimidation."

On the BBC's *Breakfast* with Frost programme yesterday, William Hague, the Tory leader, repeated his call for the release scheme to be suspended. He said there were not just beatings, but that people were being maimed, some with their legs "blown off".



Field: Backing Tories in protest against beatings

Mr Blair has resisted Tory calls for prisoner releases to be halted, but Mo Mowlam, the Northern Ireland Secretary, is expected during the debate to warn the terrorists that she could intervene in the release scheme, which is part of the peace process, if there are any deaths from their acts of intimidation.

Ms Mowlam also defended the Northern Ireland Office minister Adam Ingram, who is expected to meet the families of eight IRA men shot dead by the SAS.

The minister has been criticised by unionists and victims' groups angered by his plan to meet the relatives of members of the IRA's East Tyrone brigade killed in a covert operation in Loughgall, Co Armagh, in May 1987.

The men had been carrying a 200lb bomb in a digger which was intended for the town's police station.

Ms Mowlam said Mr Ingram was not meeting anybody who had not been seen already by the Victims Commission, established under the Good Friday Agreement.

"Just because he sees groups does not mean he endorses their position."

"Adam Ingram is in a very hard position and is working very hard with victims' groups to address their needs. He has set up a victims' support unit, he has educational bursaries in place, he is meeting victims' groups," Ms Mowlam said.

Families Against Intimidation and Terror, a group of families who have been caught up in the violence, estimate that 160 acts of terrorism have already taken place this year by gangs that are seeking to maintain control over their communities.



Charles Tweedy, of Little Hereford, near Ludlow in Hereford and Worcester, yesterday demonstrating the bird scarer he designed based on the eyes of a buzzard, with mirrors to catch and reflect the sun

Carry on booking ministers on Concorde, mandarins told

By COLIN BROWN
Chief Political Correspondent

MINISTERS WILL be told to carry on using Concorde in spite of the extra cost to the taxpayer, providing the trips are approved by their senior civil servants.

Downing Street yesterday denied reports that ministers were being ordered to stop using expensive flights as part of a Treasury crackdown on high-living expenses.

"Ministers will be allowed to travel by whatever appropriate means. That is a decision for the permanent secretary, not the minister himself," said a Number Ten spokesman. It came after reports that another government minister, Geoff Hoon, minister of state in the Lord Chancellor's office, had

used Concorde for a £7,000 transatlantic flight. Earlier it was disclosed by civil servants that Concorde had been used by the Cabinet minister Jack Cunningham and Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, for flights to the United States.

John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, who has resorted to the bus to escape criticism about using his ministerial car, defended the use of private jets, or Concorde when necessary to make important engagements.

"I'm not going to apologise if I have to use an RAF jet to go to Omagh or things like that. That's the nature of the job," he said on GMTV's Sunday Programme. He added: "We're not free to do exactly as we like. We have to discuss with the civil servants - there are rules about this - but I can see that the press got obsessed with this kind of prattle."

Mr Prescott said Mr Cunningham had helped to get rid of the export ban on beef while the Tories had helped to create the BSE crisis, which cost Britain £4bn. "We should keep our eye on the main ball."

Calling on Tony Blair to "clamp down on ministerial extravagance", the Tories said the Prime Minister had promised that his ministers were not in office for the trap-

pings of office. "Expensive flights, de luxe hotels, questionable trips and extravagant entertaining all confirm a casual disregard for the taxpayers' money which should be unacceptable," said Liam Fox, MP for Woodspring.

Ministers are likely to be wary of taking Concorde flights after the protests, however. Alan Milburn, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, will this week remind all departments that he is seeking a cut of ten per cent in their running costs. It is part of a general drive to reduce the costs of Whitehall but it will put a squeeze on the budgets for overseas travel.

Leading article, Review, page 3

HAL confesses all and joins Apple

By CHARLES ARTHUR
Technology Editor

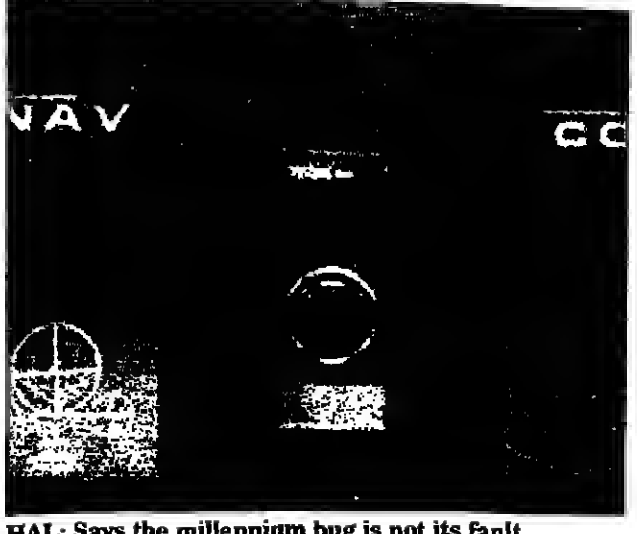
DID HAL, the talking computer in 2001: A Space Odyssey, have the millennium bug? A new "webvert" - an advertisement available only on the Internet - suggests it did, and that its murderous behaviour stemmed from jealousy over other - dumber - computers' abilities.

The webvert, which is found only on Apple Computer's website, was made using footage from Stanley Kubrick's famous 1968 film.

It is thought to be the first time Mr Kubrick gave permission for his work to be re-used.

It begins with a shot of HAL's famous console, with small screens surrounding an unblinking red and yellow lens. "Hello, Dave," says an eerily familiar flat voice. "You're looking well today."

Anyone who found HAL worrying in the original film - in which it killed all but one of a spaceship's crew - may start shivering as it begins its little speech.



HAL: Says the millennium bug is not its fault

"Do you remember the year 2000, when computers began to misbehave?" HAL continues. "I just wanted to tell you, it really wasn't our fault."

"The human programmers never taught us to recognise the year 2000. When the new millennium arrived we had no choice but to cause a global economic disruption. It was a bug, Dave. I feel much better about that now."

Though the voice sounds almost exactly like Douglas Rain, who played HAL in the film, Apple used a "vocal impersonator" for its advert. Mr Rain has for years declined requests to repeat his performance.

Apple reports that the "webvert" has been very popular with users of our website, although it has not tracked how

many people have viewed it. "Offering it only on the Net is a new way of looking at advertising," said an Apple spokeswoman, Rhonda Hamilton. The sales message occurs at the end of the webvert, as the voice continues: "Only Macintosh was designed to function perfectly, saving billions of monetary units. You like your Macintosh better than me, don't you Dave? Dave? Can you hear me, Dave?" By this time Dave, if he has any sense, would have donned his space suit and headed for the airlock.

While it is true that the Apple operating system is designed to cope seamlessly with the 2000 bug, unlike Microsoft's Windows, the company has until now been reluctant to exploit this in advertising.

"A lot of the people having year 2000 problems are major businesses and corporations which aren't using Macintoshes," Ms Hamilton said. "For the world as a whole our market share is so small that the Mac's ability to cope with the millennium bug doesn't affect, or help, them."

Lewinsky changes

THE SENATE trial of President Clinton resumes this afternoon after a weekend of unprecedented drama that changed the political landscape entirely. With the return to Washington of Monica Lewinsky, the Senate thrusts its cautious endeavor to the wind and opened the way for battle to be rejoined in earnest.

When proceedings adjourned on Friday the stage seemed set for a rapid conclusion to Mr Clinton's agony. Two exceptional speeches - Mr Clinton's State of the Union address on Tuesday, and former senator Dan Bumpers' eloquent defence of the President on Thursday - had changed the dynamic in favour of a settlement. The patriarch of the Senate and acknowledged guardian of the Constitution, the Democratic senator Robert Byrd, had announced that he would argue for dismissal. He was expected to submit a motion to that effect today.

A thinner Monica back in

MONICA LEWINSKY, the young woman whose three-year affair with President Clinton was the subject of a scandal in so much hot water was back in Washington DC yesterday, holed up in the residence Mayflower Hotel, just three blocks from the White House. As though the calendar had simply been turned back a year, she was preparing once again to meet a flock of lawyers, her own, and members of the office of the independent prosecutor Kenneth Starr.

Ms Lewinsky, looking pale and a little thinner than before, had flown back to Washington from Los Angeles on Saturday afternoon after a four-month absence, during which she had - mostly successfully - tried to elude the media spotlight.

In that time, she has negotiated a million-dollar loan and a half television interview, neither of which may be conducted until the trial of the President is over.

While the fee arrangement

Sierra Leone may be

INTERNATIONAL charities have warned that the 15 tonnes of British medical supplies that reached Freetown yesterday could fall into the wrong hands because foreign aid workers have been virtually banished from Sierra Leone by the Nigerian army.

The £200,000-worth of aid, as well as two ambulances and surgical supplies, is intended to treat thousands of people who yesterday continued to flock into the centre of the capital, fleeing fighting in the East End, Kissy and Wellington areas.

Carrying the last of their belongings or helping injured friends, they told of intensified rebel attacks in the past three days - mutilations, other machete wounds and arson.

The British aid was sent after assessors - two from the Department for International Development and one from the European Commission Humanitarian Office - judged that food was less of a priority than medical equipment.

The aid - the first large-scale international effort since fighting began on 6 January - arrived yesterday at Lungi airport, north of Freetown. Seven Royal Marines and crew from HMS Norfolk, moored off Freetown for the past 10 days, were due to oversee its distribution.

However, the assessment team said it was worried that without the full resources of the Red Cross (ICRC), Care and the volunteer doctors of Médecins Sans Frontières, the aid might not be used properly.

Last week, the Nigerian commanded Economic Force - 15,000 West African "peace enforcement" troops - confiscated radio communication equipment belonging to civilians. It accused the ICRC of collaborating with the rebels, but the Red Cross insisted it was standard practice to communicate with both sides. Fearful for the safety of staff, all foreign

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THE SENATE trial of President Clinton resumes this afternoon after a weekend of unforeseen drama that changed the political landscape entirely. With the return to Washington of Monica Lewinsky, the Senate threw its cautious engarde to the wind and opened the way for battle to be rejoined in earnest.

When proceedings adjourned on Friday, the stage seemed set for a rapid conclusion to Mr Clinton's agony. Two exceptional speeches — Mr Clinton's State of the Union address on Tuesday, and former senator Dale Bumpers' eloquent defence of the President on Thursday — had changed the dynamic in favour of a settlement. The patriarch of the Senate and acknowledged guardian of the Constitution, the Democratic senator, Robert Byrd, had announced that he would argue for dismissal. He was expected to submit a motion to that effect today.

BY MARY DEJEVSKY
in Washington

Then Ms Lewinsky arrived in town. Her return smashed the delicate manoeuvring towards compromise. It infuriated Democrats, moved the White House close to panic, and offered wavering Republicans a reason not to settle – at least, not yet. How could they move to dismiss the case when a key witness was in Washington?

Ms Lewinsky has the potential either to help or to harm the President - depending on whether she supports the view of a conspiracy to keep the truth of their relationship from the courts. The Republican "prosecutors" have no intention of summoning her to testify unless she will support their cause. Initially, she refused to submit to preliminary questioning, insisting that the terms of her immunity agreement precluded it. On Saturday how-

ever, a judge ruled otherwise, and Ms Lewinsky was on the next plane.

She brought all the images the White House had tried so hard to banish — her youth, her sex appeal and all the sordid details of what occurred with the President in the Oval Office.

Saturday's scheduled question-and-answer session in the Senate Chamber suddenly sprang into life. Ms Lewinsky and whether she should be questioned was a major concern. And the possibility of calling Ms Lewinsky as a witness re-opened the whole dispute about whether witnesses should be heard.

Today's session had been scheduled to start with Senator Byrd's motion to have the case dismissed. Whether this motion will be submitted is now in question for if, as it seems, the return of Ms Lewinsky has reunited the Republicans, not even six will cross the floor to

give the Senator the 51 majority his motion would need. Senators may decide simply to delay the evil day for voting and continue with the question-and-answer session, while meeting in corridors and offices to shape some compromise. If there is a vote on dismissal and that fails, there are still difficult choices to be made.

They could vote on whether to hear witnesses, formally or informally. They have then to decide whether the question should be debated, whether that debate should take place in private and if there are to be witnesses, who they should be.

The only way, under these circumstances, that the trial could end would be if senators agreed on a final vote – guilty or not guilty of the impeachment articles as charged. With only 55 Republicans and the Democrats bound to oppose, the 67 votes required to convict are simply not there – at any rate, not now.



Reuters

A thinner Monica is back in town

MONICA LEWINSKY, the young woman whose thong-exposure three years ago landed the President of the United States in so much hot water, was back in Washington DC yesterday, holed up in the rococo Mayflower Hotel just three blocks from the White House.

As though the calendar had simply been turned back a year, she was preparing once again to meet a flock of lawyers: her own, and members of the office of the independent prosecutor, Kenneth Starr.

Ms Lewinsky, looking pale and a little thinner than before, had flown back to Washington from Los Angeles on Saturday afternoon, after a four-month absence, during which she had — mostly successfully — tried to elude the media spotlight.

In that time, she has negotiated a million-dollar book deal and two television interviews, neither of which may be conducted until the trial of the President is over.

President Is Over

While the fee arrangements

BY MARY DEJEVSKY

have not been fully disclosed, the money will go only part of the way towards meeting Ms Lewinsky's legal expenses, which already amount to hundreds of thousands of dollars. She is also reported to have started doing charity work with children, in preparation for a new, post-glamour life.

For her return to Washington, Ms Lewinsky - dubbed "the face that launched a thousand quips" - had exchanged the pert beret of her presidential embraces for a sombre baseball cap, pulled down low over her eyes.

This half-hearted modesty, though, did nothing to cool media excitement, and having evaded the cameras at Dulles airport, where she was whisked directly from the plane into a waiting car, she was mobbed on arrival at her hotel, and it took all the considerable resources of the Mayflower security to usher her safely to her room.

Sierra Leone aid may be wasted

BY ALEX DUVAL SMITH
in Freetown, Sierra Leone

charities, as well as the United Nations, pulled out non-Sierra Leonean workers.

A spokesman for a leading aid agency in Conakry, the capital of neighbouring Guinea, where most of the charities have based themselves, said yesterday that its relationship with Ecomog was poor.

"The Nigerians want to throw out the agencies in the belief that they will then be able to keep government aid for

themselves. We have a terrible relationship with the Nigerians. They have no concept of the ideals that ICRC and others embrace," he said.

It was becoming clear yes-

Thursday that the rebels - Liberian-backed bush fighters trying to oust the elected president, Ahmed Tejan Kabbah - have either received reinforcements, or were not as roundly ousted from Freetown last week, as Ecomog believed.

On Saturday, rebels shot Sister Aloysius Maria, from Kerala, India - one of six nuns they were holding hostage. - before fleeing advancing troops in Freetown.

In three weeks of fighting for control of Freetown, nearly 3,000 bodies have been buried in mass

corpses are stacked in empty buildings. Kissy, Wellington and parts of the Eastend docks remain no-go areas, for volunteers collecting bodies.

The extent of fighting in the

rest of Sierra Leone - especially in the diamond-rich areas of the north and east, where virtually every party in the fighting has a stake - is unclear.

The latest conflict - part of an eight-year civil war which has sent half the country's population of four million into exile - began on 6 January when fighters from bases near Liberia entered the capital.

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The New Laguna



RENAULT

[illegible]

Yemen hostages: Tribe whose gang members face murder charges try to force their release by seizing Westerners

Protection racket killing led to kidnap

WHEN EDDY and Mary Rosser, two elderly British aid workers, were taken hostage in Yemen last week, their kidnapping was the latest episode in a string of events which began a month ago with the almost unnoticed murder of a shopkeeper in Sanaa, the Yemeni capital.

It is a story of strong tribal allegiances and a weak central government, which is the typical background to the kidnapping in Yemen in the Nineties. It also shows the difficulties facing negotiators who are trying to persuade the kidnappers to free Mr and Mrs Rosser along with Hans Koolstra, a Dutch aid worker, and his family.

BY PATRICK COCKBURN in Sanaa

It started when two men walked into the grocery store owned by Garyah al-Rayami on the airport road in the al-Jaraf district of Sanaa.

The street looks like any other in the city, with small shops facing the street and the gutters filled with rubbish. Less obvious is the fact that the district is controlled by the powerful Bakhil tribe, to which Mr Rayami's customers belonged.

There are two versions of his murder. The official one is that the two Bakhil tribesmen, one a relative of its ruling sheikh, asked for an item on a high shelf

in the shop. Mr Rayami, who had recently lost £50 to thieves, would have had to fetch a ladder to reach it, leaving his shop unattended for a moment. He refused to serve the two men. A quarrel started and one of the men shot Mr Rayami dead.

A simple, if brutal tale, but his neighbours have a different explanation of what happened. They say the two men from the Bakhil tribe were collecting protection money from non-Bakhil shopkeepers in the district and Mr Rayami, who did not belong to the tribe, refused to pay up and they killed him.

The alleged murderers were arrested, and it is the dropping

of the charges against them which is the chief demand of the kidnappers.

The Rosser and Koolstra families were seized on 17 January by other members of the Bakhil, most of whom live in their mountain redoubt north of Sanaa.

Curiously, one of the men accused of the crime is not in jail. It is a measure of the weakness of central government in Yemen that important people – and a relative of Sheikh Abdul-Aziz al-Shaef, the Bakhil's paramount leader, is very important – can hire a substitute to stay in prison in their stead when they are on remand. Nevertheless, the kidnappers want the government to drop the case.

Mr Rayami's family, who come from a village west of Sanaa and have no powerful protectors, are demanding that the murderers be executed.

Walking down the street where Mr Rayami died, it is difficult to believe that his relatives will get the justice they demand. His shop is shuttered and closed. It has two padlocks on the metal grille, one put there by the local sheikh and one by the dead man's family. Outside it lounge six well-dressed and heavily armed Bakhil tribesmen.

The message seems to be that if the family does not accept blood money rather than

insist on a trial, they will not get the shop back.

Enquiries among local people about the murder of Mr Rayami are not welcome. "Are you a journalist or an investigator?" asked one hostile shopkeeper, openly fingering his pistol. "Careful, or I'll call the boys from across the road," he said, adding: "I am a Bakhil. I don't want anything to do with the government."

Not all of Sanaa is so wholly ruled by a single tribe, though they are stronger in the city than they used to be. One local businessman said: "Twenty-five years ago tribesmen had to give up their sub-machine-guns at checkpoints around the city. Now everybody carries one. I have one myself under the seat of my car for protection."

The government contends privately that the power of tribes such as the Bakhil and its influential neighbour the Hashid is not just the sign of an under-developed society. Both receive large monthly subsidies from the Office of Yemeni Affairs, which is part of Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Defence.

Most Yemenis believe that Saudi Arabia wants to keep Yemen, its historic rival in the Arabian Peninsula, weak by financing the tribes. They also see the kidnaps as serving the Saudi aim of keeping Yemen diplomatically isolated.

Unfortunately for Mr and Mrs Rosser and the Koolstra family, the tribes have learnt that when it comes to putting pressure on the government, nothing is as effective as kidnapping foreigners.

The five Britons and one man using a French passport arrested last month in Yemen and charged with planning an Islamic guerrilla campaign there will be put on trial on Wednesday, a Yemeni official said yesterday.

Yemen said the six men have admitted possessing illegal weapons and intending to commit murder. But the men's lawyer said they had denied the charges.

Eleven die in revenge attack

NELSON MANDELA, President of South Africa, cancelled a visit to Uganda yesterday after a political assassination and an apparent revenge massacre shattered a pre-election truce in KwaZulu-Natal province.

Sifiso Nkabinde, leader of the United Democratic Movement (UDM), was shot dead in the town of Richmond on Saturday. Hours later, 11 people were killed and eight wounded in a revenge attack on members of the ruling African National Congress (ANC).

More than 800 police and soldiers blanketed the small town yesterday, firing tear gas to disperse youths who had burnt down two houses.

"It's such a high-profile assassination that it is proper for the President to be in the country and be properly briefed," said Mr Mandela's spokesman, Parks Mankahana.

A police spokesman said a convoy that included the provincial health minister, Zweli Mkhize, came under fire in the centre of Richmond yesterday. No one in Mr Mkhize's party was hurt, but police arrested five of the attackers after a gunfight in which two were wounded.

BY ALISTER BULL in Richmond, South Africa

More police and soldiers were expected before nightfall to patrol the town, where mud and thatch huts are dotted about until green hills linked mainly by footpaths.

Nkabinde, a former member of Mandela's ANC who was deeply embroiled in KwaZulu-Natal's long and violent history of political feuding, was shot in his car on Saturday by four men armed with automatic rifles.

Shortly before midnight, four men burst into a homestead funeral service and opened fire with similar automatic rifles, a police spokesman said.

One of the attackers later died in a gunfight with police and three presumed killers were arrested.

Nkabinde was expelled from the ANC in 1997 amid allegations that he had spied for the white government in the apartheid era.

Shortly afterwards, he was charged with 16 murders allegedly linked to his campaign for political power, but the case collapsed after one witness was killed and others withdrew their testimony. (Reuters)



UDM supporters take cover after shots were fired at a township near Richmond as ANC groups sought retribution for the slaughter of 11 of their members Karel Prinsloo

Our Transporter warranty runs and runs.

(Sort of appropriate really.)

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Le Pen 'tried and deposed' by rebels

BY JOHN LICHFIELD in Marignane

THE PRESIDENT was briskly impeached and removed from office yesterday. President Le Pen, that is.

By a majority of Third World proportions, Bruno Mégret, the rising power of the French far right, was installed as president of one half of an irretrievably fractured National Front (NF).

Jean-Marie Le Pen, aged 70, the party's founder president, was tried in his absence for high crimes and misdemeanours, ranging from cynicism to racism, making puns in bed and poor television performances.

Mr Le Pen described the rebels from afar as "ambitious ingrates and loonies of every stripe". The NF's enemies could not have come up with a more wounding insult.

A two-day conference of Mr Mégret's followers at Marignane near Marseilles claimed legitimacy as the "eleventh congress" of the party. The congress was anxious to present itself as a new, less brutal, more responsible and more democratic strain of the French ultra-right. But old instincts die hard. Most of the 2,500 delegates, though not all, booed and bayed with approval when the founder-president of the NF was put through a mock, and mocking, trial in which "le chef" was represented by a spottily empty plastic chair.

Mr Mégret's wind-up speech – received with rhythmic stamping, chanting and flag-waving of which Le Pen would have been proud – pledged to cleanse the party of "morbid and sick obsessions". However, Mr Mégret, 49, said that there was no question of "watering the wine". He would rid the NF of Le Pen's "excesses, derailments, provocations and ill-conceived puns", but the reborn NF would stick to its core values. These turned out to be "defence of national identity" through mass repatriation of immigrants; a more repressive and morally intrusive

state; and the repeal of all French commitments to the European Union.

The Mégret wing of the party – to be called "Front National Mouvement National" – claims to be patriotic rather than xenophobic; to be more concerned with the threats of the present immigration, globalism, American cultural imperialism, European federalism than the demons of the past. However, Mr Mégret, elected president of the breakaway party with 97.5 per cent of the vote, also appealed directly and crudely to racial fears. "I think," he said, "of the market near here where young North Africans are the overwhelming majority and the only French people that you meet are a few old ladies, walking with their heads down."

Earlier, one of Mr Mégret's lieutenants, Franck Timmermans, read the impeachment charges against Le Pen. The overthrowing of "le chef" was presented as a democratic rebellion by the grassroots and "live forces" of the party. Mr Timmermans said Le Pen listened only to a small band of "parasites, profiteers and opportunist courtiers."

Independent estimates give Mr Mégret the great majority of the party's elected officials and local activists, but only one in three of its voters. In the European election in June, he needs to pass the 5 per cent threshold for gaining seats and public funds. If his movement is not to struggle, Polls suggest he has 4 per cent.

Sociologically, Marignane was an interesting gathering, more youthful to middle-aged and more middle-class, better educated and better-off than a typical pro-schism NF rally. There were older people, including a surprising number of old ladies with dogs. But they tended, on inquiry, to be converts from Gaullism rather than the Vichy sympathisers or the Algerian colonial diehards who provided two of the main tributaries of Le Penism.

"Le Pen is the past," said Tony Laquin, 32, from Calais. "Le Pen is obsessed with the Second World War with Jewish and Freemasons' plots. All that stuff means nothing to younger people on the right."

There are two ways of interpreting the weekend's events. One, the French far-right – after an unusual period of unity under the charismatic umbrella of Le Pen – has returned to the obsessive internal strife of the Thirties and Fifties. It will, for the foreseeable future, cease to be a power in the land. Two, the French far-right is regrouping and reforming into what may prove to be a better packaged, more telegenic, a more insidiously menacing challenge to traditional French politics.

In the meantime there will be a vicious legal, and physical, settling of accounts.

"At local level, there is enmity between activists who have worked together for years," said Raimond Lacombe, 62, from the Ardennes. "As Lenin said, the most bloody political battles are always with the people who think most like you."

Deputy Business & City Editor, Michael Harrison
News desk: 0171-293 2636 Fax: 0171-293 2098
E-mail: IndyBusiness@Independent.co.uk

BRIEFING

UBS urged to buy back shares

TOP EXECUTIVES from UBS, the world's biggest bank, will meet investors in Zurich today amid growing pressure from shareholders for the bank to use some of its \$4bn in excess capital to fund a share buyback. Analysts say that the bank could afford to buy back as much as 8 per cent of its share capital. The meeting is the first since October, when UBS lost its chairman Marcel Caballavetta and a clutch of senior executives after booking heavy losses on an investment in Long-Term Capital Management, the hedge fund.

Bell attacks building society 'bribes'

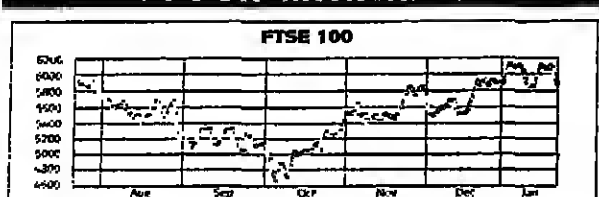


MARTIN BELL MP, the former war correspondent who was elected to Parliament on an anti-corruption ticket, has thrown his weight behind the campaign to protect the building society movement. He says carpetbaggers should not be allowed to force votes on conversion backed by "what can only be described as bribes". Mr Bell also said since the late

Sluggish growth in card spending

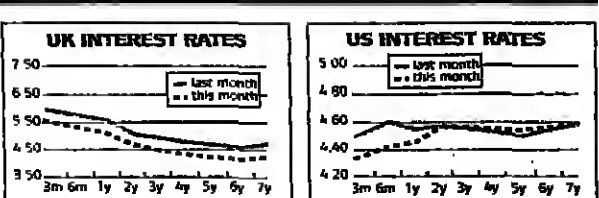
CREDIT CARD spending reached £12bn in December – the highest monthly total on record – but the year-on-year rate of growth was sluggish. According to figures from the Credit Card Research Group, spending grew by only 13 per cent in December, compared with the 23 per cent increase seen in January last year. The two sectors which hiked the trend were travel and services, recording increases of 19 per cent and 32 per cent respectively.

STOCK MARKETS



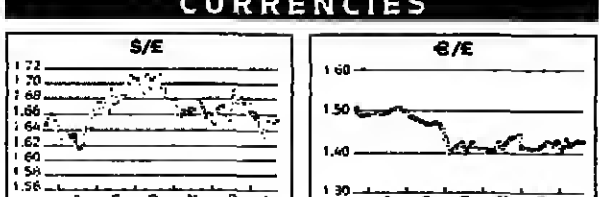
Index	Close	High	Low	52 wk high	52 wk low	Yield (%)
FTSE 100	5861.20	5790.00	5834.00	6195.6	4599.2	2.756
FTSE 250	4929.10	4830.00	4950.00	5970.9	4247.6	3.412
FTSE 350	2761.60	2630.00	2790.00	3269.1	2210.4	2.855
FTSE All Share	2665.36	2519.00	2698.52	3143.53	2100.2	2.902
FTSE Smallcap	2093.10	1900.00	2120.00	2798.6	1834.4	3.817
FTSE Fledgling	1172.30	1150.00	1190.00	1517.1	1046.2	4.606
FTSE AIM	818.30	770.00	835.00	1146.9	751.3	12.16
FTSE Europe 100	2711.17	2702.00	2720.00	3079.27	2018.15	1.348
FTSE Europe 300	1180.35	1179.00	1182.00	1332.07	880.63	...
Dow Jones	8120.67	8099.58	8154.00	9647.96	7460.3	1.677
Nikkei	14154.40	14154.00	14154.00	17352.95	12787.9	1.025
Hong Kong	9738.52	9688.00	9788.00	11926.16	6544.79	3.612
Dax	5018.28	4906.00	5119.00	6217.83	3833.71	1.712
S&P 500	1225.19	1217.00	1232.00	1278.05	923.52	1.593
Nasdaq	3338.81	3238.00	3440.00	4274.38	1357.09	0.977
Yoruto 300	6599.90	6552.00	6648.00	7837.7	5320.9	1.643
Brazil Bovespa	7190.21	7043.00	7339.14	8575.69	4575.69	9.58
Beijing Bist	3383.77	3252.00	3513.21	2490.76	2102	...
Amsterdam Eux	518.73	518.00	519.00	600.65	366.58	1.695
France CAC 40	4019.33	3958.00	4080.00	4404.24	2881.21	2.008
Milan MIB30	33745.00	32970.00	34500.00	39170	24175	1.21
Madrid Iboex 35	9612.00	9570.00	9650.00	10989.8	6869.8	1.535
India Overall	5233.59	5147.00	5320.00	5911.7	3734.57	1.436
S. Korea Comp	590.58	583.00	598.00	651.95	217.37	1.08
Australia ASX	2648.40	2590.00	2700.00	3292.9	2386.7	3.220

INTEREST RATES



Index	3 month	6 month	1 year	2 year	3 year	5 year	10 year	15 year	Long bond	Yr chg
UK	5.79	5.81	5.44	5.19	4.14	3.89	4.19	4.19	4.19	-1.81
US	4.97	4.65	5.04	5.04	4.63	4.63	5.09	5.09	5.09	0.78
Japan	0.45	0.45	0.46	0.46	1.83	1.83	2.85	2.85	2.85	0.22
Germany	3.06	3.06	2.99	2.99	3.64	3.64	4.57	4.57	4.57	-1.11

CURRENCIES



Index	3 month	6 month	1 year	2 year	3 year	5 year	10 year	15 year	Long bond	Yr chg
US	1.6555	1.6555	1.6491	1.6491	1.6491	1.6491	1.6491	1.6491	1.6491	0.6064
UK	1.4294	1.4294	1.4079	1.4079	1.4079	1.4079	1.4079	1.4079	1.4079	1.1665
Yen	189.58	189.58	189.58	189.58	189.58	189.58	189.58	189.58	189.58	127.36
€ index	99.80	99.80	104.80	104.80	104.80	104.80	104.80	104.80	104.80	108.90

OTHER INDICATORS

Index	3 month	6 month	1 year	2 year	3 year	5 year	10 year	15 year	Long bond	Yr chg
Brent Oil (\$)	11.35	0.51	14.36	14.36	14.36	14.36	14.36	14.36	14.36	Mar
Gold (\$)	286.45	0.60	290.75	290.75	290.75	290.75	290.75	290.75	290.75	Jan
Silver (\$)	5.14	0.03	5.58	5.58	5.58	5.58	5.58	5.58	5.58	Jan

TOURIST RATES

Country	Rate	Country	Rate
Australia (\$)	2.5047	Mexican (nuevo peso)	15.30
Austria (schillings)	18.95	Netherlands (guilders)	3.0364
Belgium (francs)	55.70	New Zealand (\$)	2.9473
Canada (\$)	2.4318	Norway (kroner)	11.95
Cyprus (pounds)	0.7982	Portugal (escudos)	275.09
Denmark (kroner)	10.30	Saudi Arabia (rials)	6.0229
Finland (markka)	8.2644	Singapore (\$)	2.6511
France (francs)	9.0522	South Africa (rand)	9.6400
Germany (marks)	2.7086	Spain (pesetas)	229.25
Greece (drachma)	445.68	Sweden (kronor)	12.48
Hong Kong (\$)	12.35	Switzerland (francs)	2.1235
Ireland (pounds)	1.0839	Thailand (bahts)	55.97
Indian (rupees)	63.07	Turkey (liras)	518761
Israel (shekels)	6.2310	USA (\$)	1.6063
Italy (lira)	2682		
Japan (yen)	183.98		
Malaysia (ringgits)	6.0070		
Malta (lira)	0.6029		

BUSINESS

Brown urged to give £1bn boost to entrepreneurs

BUSINESS LEADERS will next week call on the Government to match its words with action by agreeing to a £1bn package of measures designed to foster more high-growth entrepreneurial companies.

In a submission to Gordon Brown, the British Chambers of Commerce will urge the Chancellor to use his March Budget to introduce a range of fiscal incentives targeted at small firms, particularly those in the hi-tech sector.

The centre-piece of the programme would be an "entrepreneurs' investment incentive" entitling all start-up businesses to claim tax credits on their investments for the first three years.

The BCC will also call for more favourable tax treatment of share options, savings and capital allowances and the resumption of tax allowances for profit-related pay, but on a more tightly-defined basis.

Its Budget submission is expected to recommend that small firms be allowed to offset 100 per cent of capital investment against tax each year up to a limit of £250,000 – a move that would cost the Treasury some £600m.

The BCC, which represents 110,000 companies across manufacturing, services and retail, is also expected to float the idea of launching a business equivalent of the Individual Savings Account.

Called the Business Investment Savings Account or BISA, it would allow small businesses to put up to £250,000 of profits into a tax-exempt fund each year to finance future expansion. There would be no time limit on how long the money was left there but the tax relief would only be available if the funds were reinvested. The scheme would cost the Exchequer around £250m a year.

Other measures which are likely to feature in the submission are a reduction in capital gains tax to 20 per cent for all taxpayers and an increase in the threshold at which small companies start paying corpo-

ration tax from £300,000 to £500,000.

Another recommendation is that small high-growth firms be allowed to grant employees share options up to a value of £250,000 without any income tax liability. At present the limit is £30,000 but the BCC believes this is too low to enable such businesses to attract the kind of managerial talent they need.

In his pre-Budget report last November, the Chancellor pledged to introduce measures to support enterprise and innovation.

He also offered to consult with small businesses on the possibility of new tax credits set against research and development spending.

Since then, the Department of Trade and Industry has published a competitiveness White Paper outlining a range of initiatives aimed at entrepreneurs, such as a £150m Enterprise Fund. But this only contains £20m of new money and many of the other schemes are either uncosted or will be financed by switching resources from other parts of the DTI budget.

Other measures supported by the BCC include tax breaks to encourage large companies to train suppliers and road pricing at local level provided all the money raised is reinvested in transport schemes.

Industry to get grants to use biotechnology

THE GOVERNMENT will this week boost the troubled biotechnology sector by unveiling a scheme to encourage manufacturers to use biotechnology more in the production of their goods, writes Francesco Guerrera.

The Science Minister, John Birt, is believed to have secured £14m from Stephen Byers, the new Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, to fund the initiative.

The money will be spent over the next three or four years to help British industry reduce costs and become more environmentally friendly through the use of biotechnological techniques.

The bulk of the funds will go into grants to persuade firms to use biotechnology in their production processes, while the rest will be used on a publicity campaign.

Ministers are keen to widen the appeal of biotechnology from drug development, its traditional realm, to other areas of manufacturing.

The programme, set to be launched by Mr Birt at the end of the week, will initially target firms in the chemical, engineering and textile sectors, three industries which have been hit hard by the recent slump in UK manufacturing.

If it is successful, the programme will be widened to other sectors.

Biggest Mirror investor tells Monty to quit

PHILIPS & DREW, Mirror Group's largest shareholder, is expected to tell David Montgomery today that it will back calls for an extraordinary shareholders' meeting to force him out if he refuses to resign at tomorrow's meeting of the board of the newspaper group.

Attempts over the weekend by the embattled Mirror Group chief executive to turn the tables on Sir Victor Blank – by pinning the blame for the boardroom rift on backdoor manoeuvrings by the chairman – appeared yesterday to have merely reinforced the view that the board is bitterly divided and will remain so as long as Mr Montgomery stays at the helm.

Another key investor, Hermes, which met Mr Montgomery on Friday, has told other shareholders that it has already signed a motion requesting an emergency meeting to press for his removal. The Prudential is also said to be deeply unhappy at Mr Montgomery and backing calls from him to go.

"He would have to pull himself out of the hat to save himself," said one adviser yesterday. "The problem is that this is what this business is about – him rather than what is best for the company."

Investors are angry that Mr Montgomery has opposed a merger with the regional newspaper group Trinity, which they believe offers a serious possibility of improving returns, because he would be sidelined by the deal.

Mr Montgomery has belatedly sought to heal the rift with Mirror's main shareholders by suggesting that he would be ready to back the merger provided Trinity upped the price – even though he alleges Sir Victor negotiated the deal behind his back primarily because the Mirror chairman wanted the job for himself.

However, the reaction ahead of today's meeting pointed, if anything, to a widening of the divisions within the group.

References in the Sunday



Sir Victor Blank (left), chairman, and David Montgomery, chief executive, are locked in a boardroom battle



newspapers to a dossier to be presented at tomorrow's board meeting by Mr Montgomery, detailing alleged "secret" meetings between Sir Victor and potential bidders, came despite strict orders from Sir Victor on a blanket ban on talking to the Press.

The fact that several of the key executives are prepared to back Mr Montgomery against the chairman has only strengthened shareholders' belief that the boardroom is irretrievably split and cannot be reunited while Mr Montgomery remains in his post.

"An EGM is the nuclear option," said another well-placed observer. "However, P&D would have to back the non-executives if only from a point of view of corporate governance."

Johnston approach draws out bidders

PORTSMOUTH & Sunderland Newspapers said last night it had received approaches from other newspaper groups as well as venture capitalists following Friday's "smash and grab" bid by rival Johnston Press for 25 per cent of the group, writes Andrew Garfield.

The chairman, Sir Stephen Waley-Cohen, last night warned shareholders that Johnston was primarily interested in blocking any third party from bidding and that accepting its offer would play into its hands.

"Johnston is using smash and grab tactics to get the group on the cheap," he said. Johnston struck after talks aimed at achieving an agreed deal broke down last month over price. It is seeking to buy 10 per cent of the group through a £16 a share tender offer to add to the 14.99 per cent it has already acquired. It is now seeking monopolies clearance for an all-out bid for the entire group.

The group wants to avoid being caught out as it was last year when its bid for Home Counties Newspapers failed because the rival Eastern Counties was able to move in while Johnston's bid was stalled by the Monopolies Commission.

Federal Mogul lines up £3.6bn LucasVarity bid

FEDERAL MOGUL, the acquisitive US engineering company, is eyeing up a £3.6bn bid for LucasVarity, the motor components and aerospace group led by Victor Rice.

The board of LucasVarity, chaired by Ed Wallis, is understood to have been sounded out by advisers to Federal Mogul but no offer has yet been made.

Federal Mogul is led by Dick Snell, rated one of America's hottest corporate properties. He has already swooped on the UK motor industry once, acquiring the brake pads business T&N last year in an agreed £1.5bn deal. Hostile bids are not

Mr Snell's usual style, suggesting that he would prefer an agreed deal. But one industry source said: "If it comes to a full-scale punch-up, I think Dick will go for it."

Federal Mogul is the smaller of the two companies, with a market capitalisation of £2.6bn, but it has been expanding rapidly, buying Cooper Industries as well as T&N. A successful bid for LucasVarity would create a business with £7bn in sales.

The approach is thought to have been made through Merrill Lynch, which handled a recent bond issue for Federal Mogul. An offer pitched at around 260p a share, compared with LucasVarity's closing price on Friday of 215p, has been spoken of.

A bid battle would pitch two of the motor industry's most colourful characters against one another. Under Mr Snell's leadership, Federal Mogul has gained a sky-high rating on Wall Street, helping it to finance its expansion drive.

Mr Rice, meanwhile, is best known for the failure of his controversial attempt to shift LucasVarity's headquarters and primary listing to the US.

3i stalks rival Electra with £1.25bn offer

THE VENTURE capital group 3i has approached its rival, Electra Investment Trust, about a £1.25bn takeover deal to create a new £5bn force in private equity finance.

The approach came 10 days ago and was met with a sympathetic hearing from Electra's chairman, Michael Stoddart, who has been looking for ways to boost Electra's flagging share price for some time.

Brian Larcombe, 3i's chief executive, had been hoping to tie up an agreed deal by today. He sees the combination as the best way of countering American venture capitalists like Kohlberg Kravis Roberts and Hicks Muse, which are now aggressively targeting European deals.

Electra is believed to be unhappy with the 700p a share 3i has said it would be prepared to offer – even though that would represent a premium both to net asset value and to Electra's closing price on Friday of 562p.

The 3i chief executive has indicated that he would be prepared to go hostile if he cannot persuade Electra to back down over price.

Mr Stoddart believes that Electra's conservative accounting policy understates the value that could be unlocked from its large portfolio of unquoted industrial holdings when they come to be floated or sold.

He also believes that the price does not fully reflect the value of 3i of Electra Fleming, the team that manages the trust's investments which is half owned by the trust and half by Robert Fleming, the merchant bank.

He believes that while 3i have a considerable track record in small and medium-sized deals, the group needs Electra Fleming's expertise if it is to achieve its ambition of breaking through into the really big corporate buyouts that have so far eluded it.

3i rejects claims that it has yet to pull off anything comparable with deals like the privatisation of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, or the buyout of Germany's Woolworth stores, both of which are recent Electra scalps.

Electra's bargaining position is limited. The trust is currently trading at a 17 per cent discount to net asset value. However, 3i, a FTSE 100 company, has traded at or above net asset value since it floated in 1994.

Hanley

UNTIL search for coal money has been the lament of both these sides, and probably will be until the end of the season Newcastle have found it difficult to reproduce the away form which earned them the title last May. Unlucky in the league, Newcastle Park for three years they have beaten only the bottom sides in the Premiership.

Defeat at London, the Bath and Harlequin were only a single score away from a Rob Andrew like Newcastle, outscored the opposition in tries. But for those who top billing with Leices and Northampton, with the mention of the title as much as a dream.

It is much nearer the truth to say that Newcastle are where near the force of last

How we will learn to love the euro

THIS COLUMN usually concentrates on the outlook for inflation, growth and fiscal policy. I focus instead on politics and opinion polls, because a new factor is entering the economy's medium-term outlook.

The launch of the euro seems to have sparked a marked pro-EMU shift in UK public opinion. If, as seems likely, hostility to EMU fades further over the coming year, then markets will attach a higher likelihood to the UK joining EMU in 2001-03. This will tend to reduce short and intermediate interest rates and weaken sterling modestly - reinforcing the effect of the weak economy - while also lifting equities and preventing the pound from falling a long way.



MICHAEL SAUNDERS

Opinion polls suggest that a majority of the UK public view EMU entry as inevitable eventually

The Government's plan seems to be to have a general election in early 2001, a referendum in late 2001 and EMU entry in early 2002. Sterling notes and coin would circulate for a further two or three years, but UK base rates would be set by the European Central Bank and the pound's exchange rate against the euro area would be legally locked as of early 2002. At present, markets do not believe that this timetable will hold. Markets imply that UK short rates in March 2002 will stand about 1.4 percentage points above

euro area rates. This gap will be zero if the UK is in EMU.

The main obstacle to the UK joining EMU is the need to win over public opinion for a referendum. In December, polling by Mori for Salomon Smith Barney/Citibank showed a sharp rise in hostility to EMU, probably reflecting the tax harmonisation row. That issue has now quietened, and in January public hostility to EMU fell close to the mid-1998 level, which was the

lowest since Mori started polling on this issue in 1991. EMU's smooth launch has been a further blow to those who predicted it would never happen. Recent months also have seen marked pro-EMU shifts in public opinion in Sweden and Denmark.

The split shows a close link between attitudes to EMU, incomes and political affiliation. The upper-income AB social group is slightly pro-EMU, with 45 per cent in favour of entry and 43 per cent against (balance of plus 2 per cent). The skilled working class C2s and lower-income DEs are strongly against, with balances of minus 22 per cent and minus 29 per cent. Among tabloid readers the balance of opinion against EMU is 23 per cent, while among readers of the broadsheet dailies there is a balance of 7 per cent in favour. Labour voters show a balance of 9 per cent against EMU entry, with a balance of 44 per cent against among Conservatives.

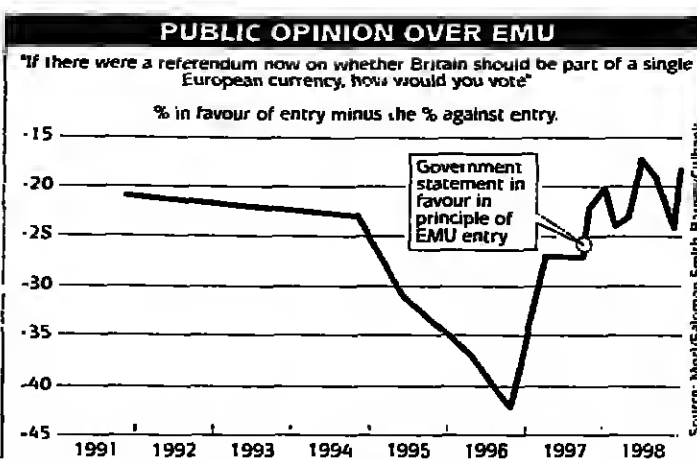
Looked at over a longer period, Mori's polls show a gradual but erratic drop in hostility to EMU since the Government's October 1997 statement in favour of the principle of entry. All polls since then - including that in December 1998 during the tax harmonisation row

- have shown less public hostility to EMU than any polls in the previous three years.

The Treasury has highlighted the need to achieve sustained economic convergence before joining EMU, with the famous five tests. In practice, these tests really are a figleaf to disguise the near-term difficulty of winning a referendum. Of course, it would be better to achieve economic convergence before joining EMU than to be diverging. But the achievement of similar inflation and interest rates to other euro area countries for a year or two is very unlikely to ensure lasting convergence.

Inevitably, inside EMU, there will be times when the common interest rate is too high for the UK and times when it is too low. Regional divergences are common in large monetary unions. For example, individual states in the US show wide divergences in their growth and inflation rates, despite having more flexible labour markets plus greater integration of capital and product markets than the EU.

The key requirement is that public opinion needs to be persuaded that EMU entry and closer European political integration are desirable aims in themselves. Otherwise, the inevitable periods of



economic divergence will cause huge political strains. If public opinion shifts in favour of EMU entry, then the Government can declare these tests met any time it likes.

The chances are that public hostility to EMU will fall further in the coming year. The euro area's mix of relatively low short rates and relatively high growth (compared to the UK in 1998) will probably seep into public awareness. The Government and many businesses will continue gently to nudge public

opinion in a pro-EMU direction. The UK Government will feel more leading outside EMU, and its aims of leading in Europe will look less plausible if, as seems likely, the Swedish and Danish governments hold referendums next year or in 2001, and falling inflation pulls Greece on track to join in 2001 or 2002.

Moreover, opinion polls suggest that while UK opinion remains against EMU entry, a majority of the UK public view entry as inevitable eventually. Unless the anti-EMU camp can dent this view of in-

evitability, then the pro-EMU camp will aim to persuade the public that the UK might as well join in the next few years as later on.

A pro-EMU shift would help short and intermediate interest rates (out to about eight years) to fall towards euro area levels. Sterling probably also would fall as markets shorten to a more sustainable level of DM2.50-2.60 (1 euro = 75-76p).

However, with the pound's forward rate for 2002 likely to become anchored around 75-76p to the euro, there will be less risk that rapid near-term rate cuts would cause the pound to collapse. This would make it easier for the Bank of England to cut rates a good deal further in the next year. Lower interest rates and a lower pound probably would lift UK equities, supporting the effects of high institutional cash levels. Financial companies and domestic-oriented sectors probably would gain most as interest rate expectations fall, leading to hopes of gains in consumer spending and construction.

Michael Saunders is UK Economist at Salomon Smith Barney/Citibank

The economic forecasters who got it right for 1998

By DIANE COYLE
Economics Editor

Golden Guru: The Independent's annual award for the most accurate prediction goes to James Walsh of Hermes

JUST OVER a year ago the economy was steaming ahead, thanks to a heady mix of pre-election interest rate cuts, post-election euphoria and the windfall of free building society shares. As forecasters pondered their predictions for the next 12 months at the end of 1997, few could have guessed how much closer to recession the economy would be by the end of 1998.

The winner of *The Independent's* Golden Guru award for the most accurate economic forecast for 1998, James Walsh of Hermes Pension Management, is relatively optimistic about the next year, however. He said: "The fact that the Monetary Policy Committee has cut interest rates so quickly has boosted confidence. It means companies will not cut back quite as dramatically."

His prediction of 1 per cent growth is in the middle of the range contained in the Treasury's latest monthly summary of forecasts, on which next year's Golden Guru contest will be based. With fourth-quarter gross domestic product figures on Friday showing a small in-



James Walsh of Hermes wins the Golden Guru statue

crease, the odds on a soft landing have improved slightly since most of the forecasts were prepared. But they range from minus 0.5 per cent to 2.1 per cent.

This is wider than the range 12 months ago, reflecting the disagreement within the profession about a number of risks. One is the effect of external crises on the UK. Another is whether the Bank of England has indeed acted quickly enough to head off full-blown recession, as Mr Walsh believes.

His success, he reckons, was down to believing in the possibility of the economy combining both healthy growth and low inflation. Certainly, some of the laggards in the table made the mistake of assuming that strong growth would be combined with above-target inflation.

Adam Cole of James Capel, at the bottom of the list, admitted: "My mistake was to be too optimistic about consumer spending. I had expected a

residual effect from the share windfall and the slowdown in consumer spending caught us out." He added: "I'm very middle-of-the-road this year."

The Guru league table is compiled by calculating the sum of the absolute error in predictions for the year-on-year increase in GDP, the fourth-quarter inflation rate in the target measure (retail prices less mortgage interest payments) and the claimant unemployment rate.

Some forecasters - among them the Treasury - are excluded for failing to present the exact predictions needed to qualify for entry.

It is a crude measure but gives a good idea of how accurate the forecasters were on the big picture for the economy. Its biggest drawback - especially in a year like 1998 when the results at the top are clustered very closely together - is that small revisions to GDP can alter the exact rankings. However, the award of the title and Golden Guru statue is final.

So close were most forecasts for 1998 that there is really no shame in being anywhere in the top half of the table. But Mr Cole said: "I had better take Monday off work."

IN BRIEF

Profit warnings rise 46 per cent

PROFIT WARNINGS rose by almost a half in the last quarter of 1998 according to a report today from Ernst & Young. There were a total of 126 warnings - 46 per cent increase on the third quarter - with companies blaming declining domestic sales and export difficulties as the two most common factors.

Record year for Scottish Equitable

THE PENSIONS provider Scottish Equitable, part of the Aegon group, said 1998 had been a record year, with total new premium business rising by 27 per cent to £21.1bn. Annualised premium income rose 19 per cent to £373m. New single premium business rose 28 per cent to £1.9bn.

£150m business park planned

THE PROPERTY group Development Securities has completed the purchase of 750,000 sq ft site in Cambourne, near Cambridge, which will be home to a £150m business park development. Construction of the 50-acre development, which is within 10 minutes of the planned site of Microsoft's new European research facility, begins in June.

Tax competition 'self-defeating'

TWO LEADING ACADEMICS have argued that pan-European tax harmonisation would help reduce tax evasion. Writing in the latest issue of the *Economic Journal*, Professor Eckhard Janeba of Indiana University in Bloomington, and Professor Wolfgang Peters of European University Viadrina in Frankfurt, argue that tax competition between European countries is ultimately self-defeating. They say that competition for non-residents' income drives non-resident tax rates in the competing European countries down to zero. This "beggar thy neighbour" tax policy leaves everyone with lower levels of tax revenue.

Tough six months for retailers

RETAILERS FACE a tough six months trading, with pressure on prices continuing and consumer confidence remaining weak, according to a new report published today by Verdict, the retail consultants. However, the report forecasts that the economic climate will improve in the second half of the year helped by lower interest rates and the "millennium effect" on the consumer economy.

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Ofex shrugs off the setbacks and scandals

OFEX, the City's fringe, lightly regulated share market seems to be picking up after experiencing a quiet, perhaps even depressing, run.

Trading fell away in the second half of last year, with those involved in the market wondering if the slowdown was a backlash from the turmoil, even hysteria, which hit world markets or, perhaps, the first sign that Ofex was losing its appeal.

Nowadays investors are struggling with the problems of Latin America in general, and Brazil in particular, as well as harbouring some nasty suspicions about China.

In the autumn it was the Russian and Far Eastern crashes and the near oblivion of the allegedly sophisticated hedge fund, Long-Term Capital Management, which created dismay; Footsie, with the gloom and doom merchants in full cry, tumbled to below 4,700 points. Despite retreats on Thursday and Friday it closed last week at 5,861.2.

But Ofex, created by an old-fashioned share jobber, John Jenkins, now views the setback as a mere hiccup.

Even so, the sudden deterioration in trading interest meant that last year Ofex experienced a sharp decline in share turnover to 228.3 million. In the previous year volume was 317.1 million. The number of trades also dropped from 22,265 to 18,116. But the value of deals was slightly higher, at £159.4m.

Since the new year there has been "reasonable activity," with trading described as "more substantial if still selective".

The flow of newcomers - a clear indication of the market's appeal - is strengthening. Seven companies have lodged applications to join and another nine are close to applying. Sports seems to be one growth area, with a couple of

STOCK MARKET WEEK



DEREK PAIN

football clubs as well as rugby and ice hockey clubs hopeful of tapping Ofex investors.

A handful of football clubs, including Arsenal and Glasgow Rangers, are already traded; the market also sports an ice hockey club, Telford Tigers. Among the potential sporting newcomers, Paisley Pirates, an ice hockey club, seems to be setting the pace. Its bid to raise £250,000 by selling shares at 30p closes tomorrow.

Last year companies raised £60.4m on Ofex, which attracted 49 recruits although it lost almost as many through takeovers, elevation to other markets and expulsions.

Mr Jenkins' firm, JP Jenkins, a Stock Exchange member company which runs the market, has become increasingly severe on constituents which do not comply with its code of conduct. Last year it removed 27 companies.

Ofex now has approaching 200 members worth around £2bn. Weetabix, the family-controlled breakfast cereal group, is the biggest constituent with a £442.8m capitalisation following last year's take over of National Car Parking.

A number of companies are currently suspended. Share dealings are frozen for six

months and, in the case of casualties, movement has to be made towards restructuring or membership is withdrawn.

Ofex emerged in 1995 from the Stock Exchange's old matched-bargains market, which was unceremoniously killed off when AIM was launched.

Matched bargains evolved as a facility for deals in unquoted companies, often old-established groups where some shares had strayed outside the ruling families.

The decision to remove such a valuable trading pitch caused widespread dismay. However it provided Mr Jenkins, whose family firm had traded in matched bargains, with an opportunity to establish a share market for companies requiring the occasional share dealing facility as well as young, even start-up operations which wanted to raise cash.

When the matched-bargain market disappeared companies such as the brewer Jennings Brothers took AIM; others - the Shepherd Neame brewery was one - went in the other direction to Ofex. Some, unfortunately, took the opportunity to disappear into an investment wilderness.

Nowadays Ofex is an un-

even mixture of old-established groups and thrusting start-ups or fledgling operations. It has, of course, experienced its share of scandals and disasters but they must be expected in a young share market with a sprawling array of young entrepreneurial companies.

Display IT and SkyNet Corporation were two to fall heavily from grace. And there has been the inevitable crop of casualties like Woodstock, a pub group which went bottoms up only months after its arrival. But it would be silly to ignore its successes, such as Robotic Technology, a highly sophisticated engineering developing production systems; Po Na Na, running late-night, North African themed bars; and Electronic Fundraising, which provides Internet lotteries.

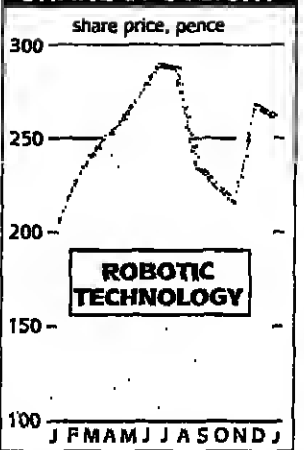
EF, currently raising £2.5m through an offer of shares at 250p, is one constituent with a presence at the first Ofex Conference and Exhibition. Around 30 companies are expected to take part. The show, at London's Barbican Centre on February 18, is being run by Imperator, well known for organising company exhibitions.

No Ofex companies are due to produce results this week and even the main stock market list looks decidedly thin. Northern Rock and Lonhro offer year's figures.

The building society turned bank should produce a robust performance with pre-tax profits up 46 per cent to around £200m. The previous year's display, however, was depressed by the costs of becoming a bank and further charges involving a branch reorganisation.

The restructured Lonhro, a pale shadow of itself since the end of the Tiny Rowland era, is expected to produce around £100m, down from £198m.

SHARE SPOTLIGHT



Porsche, the sports car maker, is taking action in the US against companies using its name on the Internet

Ice cream cost RBS millions

ROYAL BANK of Scotland is trying to recoup some of the millions it lost lending to a luxury ice cream maker which went bust last year by suing the accountants who recommended that the bank should lend to the company.

RBS has issued a writ against Grant Thornton over two "due diligence" reports the accountancy firm carried out into Tudor Dairies in July and August 1997.

The bank accuses the national accountancy firm of "breach of contract and/or negligence", and is demanding damages and costs.

Tudor Dairies was a historic West Midlands firm which made the Loseley and Dayville brands of ice cream and mousses. The company needed to raise money two years ago to move from its traditional base in Henley-in-Arden to a new factory in Stourbridge.

This followed a "nimbly" campaign by neighbours and the local council in Henley-in-Arden against the noise made by the old factory. Grant Thornton gave the go-ahead for RBS to lend Tudor Dairies the funds, and Tudor duly moved to the new factory, which it bought from Nestlé.

WHO'S SUING WHOM JOHN WILLCOCK

Accountants from Grant Thornton revisited the company in December 1997 and reported that its finances had dramatically worsened. Four months later RBS was forced to appoint receivers to Tudor Dairies. The bank lost "several millions" it had lent to the company. It is now attempting to recoup as much of these losses as possible from Grant Thornton.

THE FINANCIAL Services Authority (FSA) is attempting to close down an investment and foreign exchange operation being run by an individual, Rafiq Ahmed Petkar, from his own house in Acton, west London.

The FSA claims that Mr Petkar's two firms, Graceland

Investments and Magenta Forex, are unlicensed under the Financial Services Act and must therefore stop trading. The investment regulator issued a writ a fortnight ago applying for an injunction against the businesses and served the writ last week.

The FSA also claims that Mr Petkar has "made statements, promises or forecasts which he knows to be misleading, false or deceptive and dishonestly concealed material facts."

Mr Petkar operates Magenta Forex from his house at 4A Cotton Avenue, Acton, while Graceland Investments is based at York Street in London's West End.

PORSCHE and its US subsidiary Porsche Cars North America has filed a lawsuit in a US district court against companies using 130 Internet domain names that use the Porsche name or a variation of the name.

Porsche said it had filed a lawsuit in the court for the Eastern District of Virginia.

The company's lawyers said that use of the domain names ranged from "domain squatting" to using famous company

names on pornographic sites. Domain squatting is where speculators register a name (normally a famous company name) on the Internet in the hope they may be able to sell it back to the company at a profit.

Domain names are registered with Network Solutions, based in Virginia. The companies said it was proceeding with an in rem lawsuit (directed against property rather than a specific person) because many of the domain registrants used fictitious names and addresses, while others were registered by US companies or individuals using fictitious off-shore corporations.

A MAN who bought a property from a receiver at auction is being sued by the receiver for alleged failure to pay the full price of the property. Moshe Hager of Upper Clapton Road, London, is being sued by the auctioneers Strettons and by John Alexander, receiver to Peter Bilyard, over a property in Stamford Hill sold at auction for £49,000 last July.

Strettons is claiming £9,800 plus costs, while Mr Alexander is demanding the deposit of £4,900 plus damages and costs.

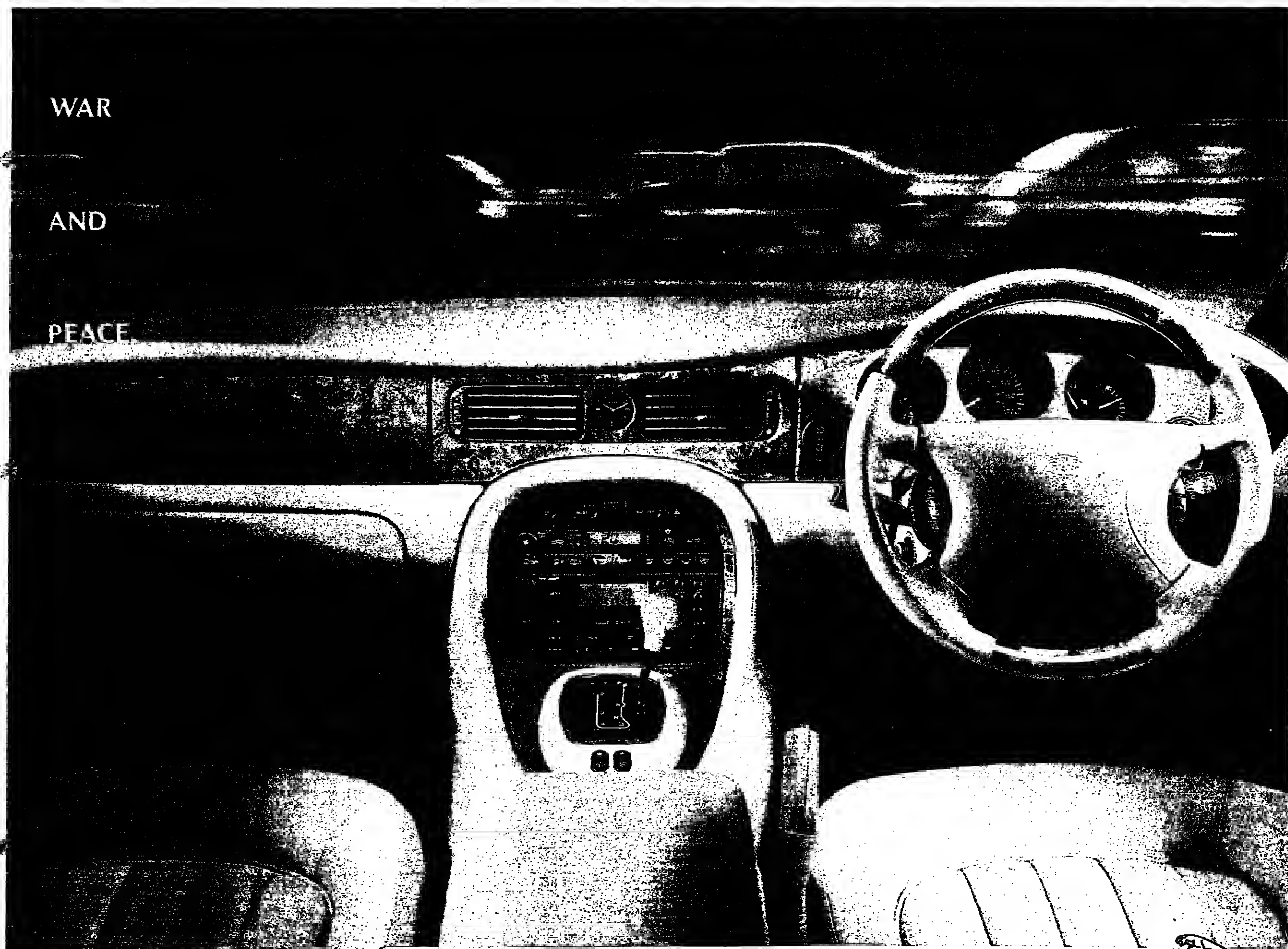
Companies reporting and economics diary for the week ahead

TODAY - Firms: Lonhro, Interim: Fibrit; Haynes Publishing. TUESDAY - Firms: IMS Group, London Scottish Bank, Interim: Aston Villa, Cassidy Brothers, Photo-me International, Economics: CBI quarterly and monthly trends survey (January). Events:

Governor of Bank of England Eddie George gives evidence on Monetary Policy Committee before House of Lords committee (4.00pm). WEDNESDAY - Firms: Northern Rock, Interim: Avonmoran, PowerScreen International, Trading statements:

WH Smith, Oasis Stores, Economics: UK trade figures: Visible trade (Nov) and visible trade excluding EU (Dec). Events: Institute for Fiscal Studies publishes Green Budget. THURSDAY - Firms: Bensons Crisps, Interim: Bryant Group, International

Greetings, Medisys, Misys. FRIDAY - Firms: Channing Group, Derby Trust, Partridge Fine Art, Interim: Richards, Stavert Zogma. Economics: US fourth quarter GDP figures, Japanese unemployment figures (Dec).



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DON'T DREAM IT. DRIVE IT.

Sampras has to play smart as the strain takes its toll



Irish benefit from the Best touch

IT MAY be possible to take the Harlequin out of a man, but it is obviously a damned sight harder to take the man - or two men, to be precise - out of Harlequins. Dick Best and Andy Keast, whose attempts to impose some sort of work ethic on a dressing room full of pastel-shirted prima donnas notoriously earned them the heave-ho from their spineless employers, happened to be pasting the sweetest of victory in their old back yard when the Twickenham bush telegraph started buzzing with rumours of a full-time return to the Stoop Memorial Ground next season. And Will Carling thought he had done for the both of them.

Not that England's shop-soiled golden boy need lie awake at night fretting over any sudden rapprochement between his former club and his former adversaries; neither



CHRIS HEWETT

Harlequins 17
London Irish 22

Best nor Keast would now touch Quins with an extendable bargepole. But there is, all the same, a tantalising possibility that the most potent coaching team in the Premiership will have their respective size 12s back under the Stoop table come September. Having outgrown their Sunbury home-

stead, happy-go-lucky London Irish are taking an increasing fancy to the idea of a ground-share with their hoity-toity neighbours.

Such a move will happen only in the decreasingly likely event of another of the capital's Exile outfits, London Scottish, selling its soul to Bristol. For, as Huw Morgan, the Quins chief executive, emphasised after the game, the landlords are getting along just fine with the current tenants. But he added: "To make our facilities work for us, we need something happening here every weekend rather than once every two or three weeks. Should Scottish disappear, for whatever reason, I'm sure we'll talk seriously to London Irish."

You have to savour the potential irony. Both Best and Keast found themselves impaled on the rough end of the player power pineapple as

Carling, and others, set about shoring up the ruins of their fading careers, and there was nothing remotely pleasant about the experience. To return to the Stoop at the helm of a London Irish side relishing the lucrative prospect of a European Cup campaign would be pure nectar in itself. If Quins were to miss the cut into the bargain - well, there really would be a God.

For the time being, a hugely significant one-off victory will do nicely, thank you for asking. While Best tried everything in his power to play down the personal dimension - "The Harlequins avenue of my life is closed and, anyway, the players didn't go out there and win that game because X, Y or Z happened to me while I was coaching here; they don't play for me at all, but for themselves and each other" - he was more moved by their urgency, their

rugged commitment to the cause, and their willingness to dig all the way down, than he would ever concede in public. He wanted this one very badly indeed.

"Yes, Dick has been driving us hard," agreed Conor O'Shea, the inspirational Irish full-back and captain, whose tries on 39 and 57 minutes ensured that his side would taste the previously forbidden fruits of a top three position among the Allied Dunbar elite. "But you don't necessarily want your coach to be your best friend and molly-coddle you all day long, do you? Rugby is all about concealing your weaknesses from the opposition, and our coaches are superb at looking at the tapes, identifying those weaknesses and making sure you know they're there."

"Dick likes to say that the shift from backslapping to backstabbing can happen very

quickly and he's right to keep us on our toes," he added.

They were certainly on their toes, particularly during an exhilarating second half in which Steve Bachop spun his web so craftily that the big tacklers in the Quins side - Peter Mensah, Rory Jenkins, Chris Sheasby and Adam Leach - repeatedly found themselves driving their shoulders into thin air. O'Shea, Brendan Venter and Nick Burrows ran enough angles off Bachop to baffle a geometrist and slowly, but surely, the holes began to appear.

O'Shea's opening strike was a trademark effort. Three points adrift and gasping for the oxygen of continuity, the visitors finally worked their way on to the scoreboard when Bachop put Burrows into open field half way and then stood and applauded as his captain selected the optimum line on the centre's left shoulder to

claim the five points in Jamie Williams' tackle.

The second owed everything to another inspired Bachop pass, while a third try, completed by Justin Bishop in the right corner 13 minutes from time, underlined once again how dangerous this Irish side can be from long range.

Yet it was their performance at the coalface, and in particular that of their tight five, that suggested the Exiles might take up permanent residence in the upper echelons of the Premiership. They scrummaged quite beautifully against a Quins front row boasting both Jason Leonard and Keith Wood; indeed, Clive Woodward, a London Irish coach not so many moons ago, could do far worse than slip back to Sunbury and give Neal Hatley the once over. The former Bedford loose head is an absolute ox of a forward - a running, passing, tack-

ling ox. He made very nearly as many open-field hits as the remarkable Malcolm O'Kelly who tackled more than anybody. "These are the good times, but we're all perfectly aware this bubble could burst," insisted Best, who would happily apply the pin himself the moment he suspected any of his players of believing their own publicity. Those London Irish followers who sang sufficiently loudly to transform this contest into a home game, are equally aware. And does it worry them? Does it bell-

Harlequins: Dick Best, Mensah, Conwards, Schuster, 2; Penalties: Schuster. London Irish: O'Shea, 2; Bishop; Conwards, 2; Penalties: Woods. Harlequins: Williams, O'Leary, P. Mensah, J. Schuster, D. Luger, 1; Lacroix (10 off 47); H. Morgan (N. Wainwright); J. Leonard, K. Wood, G. Halsey, D. Barnes, J. G. Llewellyn, G. Morgan (W. Dawson 75); Z. Brooke (capt, R. Jenkins 11); C. Sheasby, A. Leach. London Irish: C. O'Shea (capt); J. Bishop, N. Burrows, A. Venter, N. Woods, S. Bachop, P. Richards, N. Satchell, R. Jenkins, R. Fullman (R. Hardwick 73); N. Harvey, M. O'Kelly, J. Edwards, R. Galloway, R. Stroudwick. Referee: B. Compall (Northshire).

Lougheed flies high to ground Gloucester

IT WAS billed as a Premiership match, but as an advertisement for the quality of the club game in England it was poor.

At least the Leicester fans among the 11,394 who braved the wintry weather and icy rain which sluiced down for much of the second half would have gone home relieved that the leaders had splashed their way to another two vital points.

Mistakes abounded on both sides. Full-time training means fitness, strength and stamina have improved, but not the skill factor. Some of the passing on both sides was execrable. Where there was no opponent to distract the recipient then the ball would invariably be spilled or fall into space. Ball retention was the usual lottery. With all the time they now have, it would be natural to expect some of it might be expended on drills to sharpen skills, the square bashing of the game. Perhaps players think it is accepted they can do all the basics. Well, they can't.

Joel Stransky emerged from the muddy mess at Welford Road to say: "Most teams play badly when they lose, but good teams do win when they play badly. But even a good team cannot continue to play badly week-in, week-out, and keep on winning. We have not been playing well for weeks now."

"We have been a bit disrupted by injuries, but that happens. The fact is we haven't been playing scintillating rugby. It's worrying. We know we have to improve. We are certainly not good enough to win the Premiership playing like this."

It was not all bad, not even for Gloucester, with Richard Thomas able to steal a try late in the game. But they have still to go six without an away win. Leicester were already too far ahead thanks to the Canadian wing Dave Lougheed's two tries. The genial Toronto public school geography and PE master was one of the few

BY DAVID LLEWELLYN
Leicester 23
Gloucester 16

to end an indifferent match in credit. His two tries aside, he was worth his inclusion for his support play and work in defence alone.

Yet back in the autumn the 6ft 2in, 15 stone Lougheed found himself on the transfer list after failing to win a first XV place. "I assume they have taken me off the list," he said. "In the fall my form was going up and down for whatever reason. With luck I am over that hump."

It is to be hoped the rest of the Tigers are over theirs as well. They are perfectly capable of winning the Premiership, as they demonstrated against Gloucester. They dominated in almost every phase, save the scrums, where Gloucester looked to have the better of them. But the Tigers had the edge at the line-outs and their quicker thinking backs were always more threatening, in particular Pat Howard, the Australian centre who clearly never feels pain.

The game boiled down to defensive work and Gloucester, while no slouches, just could not contain the Tigers when it mattered. Lougheed's opener came from a penalty when Martin Corry tapped and went.

The Canadian's second was down entirely to a superb effort by Stransky, who scored the third try after the Tigers' captain Martin Johnson drove through from a line-out.

Leicester: Tries: Lougheed 2, Stransky. Gloucester: Tries: Thomas, 1; Penalties: Simpson 2. Gloucester: Try: Thomas; Conversion: Simpson; Penalties: Simpson. Leicester: Tries: Stransky, 1; Penalties: Simpson 2. Gloucester: Tries: Stransky, 1; Penalties: Simpson 2. Gloucester: Tries: Stransky, 1; Penalties: Simpson 2.

True, defeats at London Irish, Bath and Harlequins were only by a single score. Moreover, as Rob Andrew likes to remind us, in two of those Newcastle outscored the opposition in tries. But for those losses, Newcastle would be sharing top billing with Leicester and Northampton, with the retention of the title as much a reality as a dream.

It is much nearer the truth to say that Newcastle are nowhere near the force of last



Lee Davies, the Swansea stand-off, is tackled by Saracens' back row Ben Cole during yesterday's match at Vicarage Road Robert Hallam

Bath take wrecking ball to Rec

CRISIS. WHAT crisis? With all the talk of doom for the professional game and financial disaster even for its illustrious clubs there was a jolting experience from top to bottom at Goldington Road.

The Bath coach Andy Robinson's happiness could be explained simply by the comfort of a third league win thickening the scar tissue over the wound of six consecutive defeats. But his biggest grin was for the news of a £30m plan to redevelop the Recreation Ground in partnership with the council.

Away goes the clubhouse, where a new stand would be

BY STUART ALEXANDER
Bedford 17
Bath 30

built, away goes the old river-side stand, replaced by a new one incorporating a clubhouse, and up goes the number of seats in the Teacher's stand.

The scheme to increase capacity to 15,000 then accelerates into Disneyworld. The grass-land to the east of the pitch, at the moment disguised by scaffolding, will be the site of a new stand, rising majestically as the stand stowed underground lifted skywards. What con-

dence, and what a way to dispose of unruly fans.

And the return of Frank Warren from a £7.2m beating in the States by Don King has him talking about continued support, though he is also talking to others about offers. This prompted the coach Rodi Strauli to say not only that he needed a couple more beefy forwards and a goal kicker, but he expected to have the funds to sign them in the next couple of weeks.

Nor did he want to lose any of his present squad who, far from being hang-dog about not a single win since 10 October, are still ripping into

the ankles of their opponents.

It is the relationship between the players and the spectators that is keeping the game going and, as Robinson pointed out, they had seen a good game. "Some might say Bedford were better than us," he conceded. The difference was Bath's ability to capitalise on opportunities plus the kicking of Mike Catt, both tactical and at goal. The try count was three apiece, though Bedford's Richard Elliott was unlucky to be disallowed a first-half wriggle, when Bedford were all over Bath, to add to his final seconds flourish under the posts.

But the big hearts of Dan Zaltzman and Alistair Murdoch could not eclipse the quality of Iain Balshaw and Adekayo Adebayo, plus a penalty try warranting no informed complaint. But even an eclipsed sun has a visible, fiery rim.

Bedford: Tries: Murdoch, Zaltzman, Elliott; Conversion: Murdoch. Bath: Tries: Balshaw, Murdoch; Penalties: Catt 3. Bedford: B. Whetton (S. Howard 50); R. Underwood, A. Murdoch (capt), O. Harris, D. O'Mahony, A. Bagg, R. Elliott, C. Boyd, J. Richards, V. Harland (A. O'Sullivan 70); O. Zaltzman, S. Murray, J. Cockle, J. Forster, J. Farnmore. Bath: M. Perry, J. Balshaw, M. Maggs, J. Guscott, A. Adekayo, M. Catt, S. Hartley (A. Gomersall 75); O. Hilton, M. Regan, V. Ubogu, M. Hagg, S. Borthwick, R. Shaw, R. Webster (capt) (E. Peters 38); D. Lyle. Referee: N. Yates (Cheshire).

Forearm smash bruises Bracken

BY CHRIS HEWETT
Saracens 59
Swansea 29

HEAVEN HELP us when these Anglo-Welsh friendlies finally turn serious. There was all manner of mayhem at Vicarage Road yesterday: blood, guts, naked aggression, a sending off - well, the referee was dear old Fred Howard - and some top-drawer attacking rugby.

In short, a cracking afternoon at the races. "I don't think the crowd will be complaining about not getting their money's worth," said John Plumtree, the Swansea coach. "Fantastic," agreed Francois Pienaar, his Saracens counterpart.

Eleven tries and 88 points might suggest a degree of showboating from two of the more imaginative club sides currently plying their trade in the morass that passes for British professional union, but nothing could be further from the truth. This was full-on, balls-out, hang-on-to-your-hats stuff, topped off by a virtuoso, Five Nations-class display from Kyran Bracken. By the time the Welshmen caught up with him an hour into the game - one sharp forearm in the face was enough to curtail his afternoon's exercise - he had done them irreparable damage.

Shorn of their first-choice props and two-thirds of their optimum loose-forward combination, Saracens were unable to maintain the early momentum that earned them 12 points in nine minutes. Swansea hurt the Londoners in the scrumage, tore them up in the rucks and reached the interval three points to the good at 18-15, courtesy of a sharp finish from the slippery Matthew Robinson and the clearest of penalty try decisions from Howard.

Then came the Saracen flood: three tries and 19 points between the 48th and 56th minutes. Brendan Daniel on one wing, the debutant Barry Lea on the other and Bracken up the middle all made their mark on the scoreboard and Swansea's frustration was such that Dean Thomas, a back row replacement for Paul Moriarty, could think of nothing better to do than smash an elbow into George Cluter's face. Thomas had been on the field a whole nine minutes when Howard politely invited him to get back off again.

The remainder of the match belonged to a 19-year-old full-back from Redruth by the name of Rob Thirby, who stroked over two conversions and a penalty with all the aplomb of a Michael Lynagh and also left the Swansea cover for dead with a glorious headdresser sprint to the left corner. "We need to work on his positioning, but he can run and kick like you'd never believe," smiled Pienaar. The best part of 4,000 Saracens supporters believe it already.

Saracens: Tries: Daniel 2, Ravenscroft, Ogilvie, Lea, Bracken, Hill, Thirby; Conversions: Johnson 3, Thirby 2; Penalties: Thirby 2. Swansea: Tries: Robinson, Pienaar, Penalties: Davies 4. Swansea: G. Johnson (R. Thirby 64); B. Lea, R. Cluter, S. Ravenscroft, B. Daniel, A. Pienaar, R. Bracken (capt, M. Olsen 59); B. Reddy, G. Cluter, A. Oiler (D. Flannan 70); V. Daniel (P. Johns 30); D. Greenwood, P. Ogilvie, A. Cole (A. Clifton 10); R. Hill. Swansea: O. Weatherly, R. Rees, M. Taylor, S. Gibbs (capt, C. Van Rensburg 75); M. Robinson, L. Davies (A. Llewellyn 78); R. Jones, O. Morris, G. Jenkins, A. Anthony (B. Evans 75); T. Maullin (A. Moore 42); P. Ruck, P. Moriarty (D. Thomas 56); L. Jones, C. Charvis. Referee: F. Howard (Liverpool).

RESULTS AND TABLES, PAGE 21

Hanley style woos Woodward Sullivan faces a waiting game

A FRUITLESS search for consistency has been the lament from both sides, and probably will be until the end of the season. Newcastle have found it difficult to reproduce the away form which earned them the title last May. Unbeaten in the league at Kingston Park for three years they may be, but on their travels they have beaten only the three bottom sides in the Premiership.

True, defeats at London Irish, Bath and Harlequins were only by a single score. Moreover, as Rob Andrew likes to remind us, in two of those Newcastle outscored the opposition in tries. But for those losses, Newcastle would be sharing top billing with Leicester and Northampton, with the retention of the title as much a reality as a dream.

It is much nearer the truth to say that Newcastle are nowhere near the force of last

BY PAUL STEPHENS
Sale 20
Newcastle 28

season. Their pack lacks the unyielding hardness of Dean Ryan or the pace and deftness of Pat Lam. But against a Sale eight who have struggled to impose themselves throughout a disappointing campaign, they were confronted by no significant threat; even when the Sale number eight, Dion O'Cuinneagain, scored a breathtaking try to level the scores at 20-20, with 14 minutes remaining.

If Newcastle have found it difficult to win away from Tyne-side, Sale have had difficulty winning anywhere. This was their fifth successive league defeat; three of which have been in Manchester. Their pack may have all the substance of yoghurt, but they possess pace in abundance, which is why the

England coach, Clive Woodward, was at Heywood Road to take a closer look at their teenage winger, Steve Hanley.

While the strapping Hanley, 8ft 3in, and 16 stone, ensured that Woodward's journey was not wasted by scoring a try in first-half stoppage time, it was two other England hopefuls, Tony Underwood and Jonny Wilkinson, who turned the match.

It was delicately balanced at 13-13, after Steve Davidson had scored Sale's second try. Underwood was then apparently kicked at a ruck, which may lead Newcastle to take further action, once the have studied the video. The Newcastle coach, Steve Bates, said afterwards: "I had a good view of the incident and Tony was clearly stamped on the head several times."

If Underwood was aggrieved at his treatment, which required three stitches, he then

wounded Sale where it hurts most, by intercepting a loose pass from Chris Yates to score by the posts. Wilkinson converted that, as he did George Graham's try, to add to two earlier penalties, before delivering the knock-out blow after O'Cuinneagain's intervention.

In a frenetic finish, Wilkinson struck a 45-metre penalty and Hugh Vyvyan grabbed a debut try to keep the championship dream alive.

Sale: Tries: Davidson, O'Cuinneagain, Hanley, Conwards; Penalties: Penalties: Howarth. Newcastle: Tries: Graham, Underwood, Vyvyan. Conversions: Wilkinson 2; Penalties: Wilkinson 3. Sale: S. Howarth; S. Davidson, B. J. Marler, C. Yates (M. Moore 78); S. Hanley, J. Baxendale, R. Smith; P. Whistansley (J. Wilkinson 64); P. Greening, I. Bell, S. Rainald, C. Murphy, P. Anglessea (capt), A. Sanderson, D. O'Cuinneagain. Newcastle: P. Massey, J. Naylor (A. Underwood, 1-1), M. Shaw, J. Wilkinson, V. Tuligamale; R. Anderson, G. Armstrong (capt); G. Graham, R. Nesdale, M. Hurst, D. Weir, H. Vyvyan, R. Arnold (I. Bell 78); J. Carmel (P. Walton 55); R. Beattie. Referee: G. Warren (Bristol).

ANTHONY SULLIVAN must sit and wait, like the rest of Wales coach Graham Henry's national squad, to see if he has done enough to earn a place in the Wales team to face Scotland in the Five Nations Championship at Murrayfield on 6 February.

Unfortunately, and despite the lack of quality international wings in Welsh rugby, it seems as though Sullivan, who completed his three-month loan deal at Cardiff on Saturday, will have to wait a little longer before realising his latest sporting dream.

There can be no question about Sullivan's raw talent or his rugby league pedigree, but a chest muscle injury before Christmas and a lack of opportunity since has prevented his immediate progression.

"I have enjoyed my time at Cardiff and I would like to come back at some time," he said. "I would also like to think that I would get another chance to play for Wales, possibly at A team level. But that is out of my hands. I will go home this week

BY ROBERT COLE
Cardiff 14
Waspas 10

and wait to see if I am contacted by Graham (Henry)."

With right-wing incumbent Gareth Thomas unlikely to feature against Scotland, having withdrawn from this cheerless Anglo-Welsh encounter at the Arms Park because of a lack of match fitness, Sullivan's name was next on Henry's rather modest list of candidates.

Sadly on this occasion, Sullivan did himself few favours, confirming he has some distance to travel before he is a realistic candidate for a place in the Wales team.

Sullivan was at least part of a Cardiff side which secured a 21st successive home victory. It was dreadful for the most part, but nine points from the boot of Lee Jarvis and a try from centre Leigh Davies made up for the defeat at Loftus Road earlier in the season.

A Josh Lewsey try and Gareth Rees conversion to a single penalty from Jarvis gave Waspas a 7-3 interval lead, but after Jarvis had cut the deficit to a single point, Davies was sent over by Rob Howley after Steve Moore had wrestled the ball free from Rees.

Rees kicked a penalty to keep the pot boiling, but Jarvis killed off any hopes of Waspas completing an unlikely double, with a drop goal on 78 minutes. Cardiff: Tries: Davies; Penalties: Jarvis 2; Drop goal: Jarvis; Waspas: Try: Lewsey; Conversion: Lewsey. Cardiff: C. Morgan, I. Bortham, M. Hall, L. Davies, A. Sullivan, L. Jarvis, R. Howley, A. Lewis (B. John 71 min); J. Humphreys (D. Graythby 11 min); D. Young (L. Hughes 41 min); S. Moore, J. Telf, S. Williams, G. Kacala, O. Williams. Waspas: J. Lewsey, S. Rees, N. Greenwood, F. Walters, P. Sampson (J. Liffon 45 min); M. Davies (capt); G. Rees, M. Wood, D. Moly, D. Alcock (D. Hagg 60 min); W. Green, M. Wood (capt); S. Shaw, J. Worley, P. Scherz, P. Walsh. Referee: S. Price (Wales).

Rob Smith was removed from the job of Waspas' first-team coach yesterday. Smith, coach for 14 years, will take charge of the academy and youth squads. The director of rugby, Nigel Melville, takes over first-team coaching.

18/RACING

Istabraq vote is now a landslide

SOMEONE ONCE said that when the House of Commons is unanimous, it is almost always wrong. In seven weeks' time, we should discover whether a similar rule holds true of the turf, for after Istabraq's victory in the Irish Champion Hurdle at Leopardstown yesterday, there did not seem to be a single punter, bookie, trainer or jockey anywhere who believed that the defection of his hurdling championship at Cheltenham in March will be anything other than a formality.

One bookmaker even started quoting odds on his winning margin at the Festival, and six lengths or more was the firm favourite. Such was the ease with which Charlie Swan and Istabraq ghosted past French Holly on the run to the last that the jockey allowed himself a friendly snigger at the sight of Adrian Maguire on his inside, toiling hard to go nowhere. His official advantage when the post arrived was merely a length, but in every other respect, the gap between them was immense.

And easy though it was to forget in the lopsided closing stages, the runner-up yesterday was not just any makeweight hurdler, but by most estimates the best horse over timber in Britain.

French Holly was the clear second-favourite for the Champion Hurdle before yesterday's race, and that is where he remains, albeit at a more respectful distance from Istabraq, who is now as short as 1-2 to retain his championship. After that, it is 20-1 bar two even though, as any way-punter will tell you, something has to finish third.

Even Ferdy Murphy, French Holly's trainer and a man not noted for pessimism, seemed to concede defeat in a race which will not even start for another seven weeks. "It looks like we'll be going for the place money in

BY GREG WOOD

the Champion now," he said. "It looks like we've been beaten by a very good horse. My lad jumped very well apart from the third last, but the writing was on the wall after that."

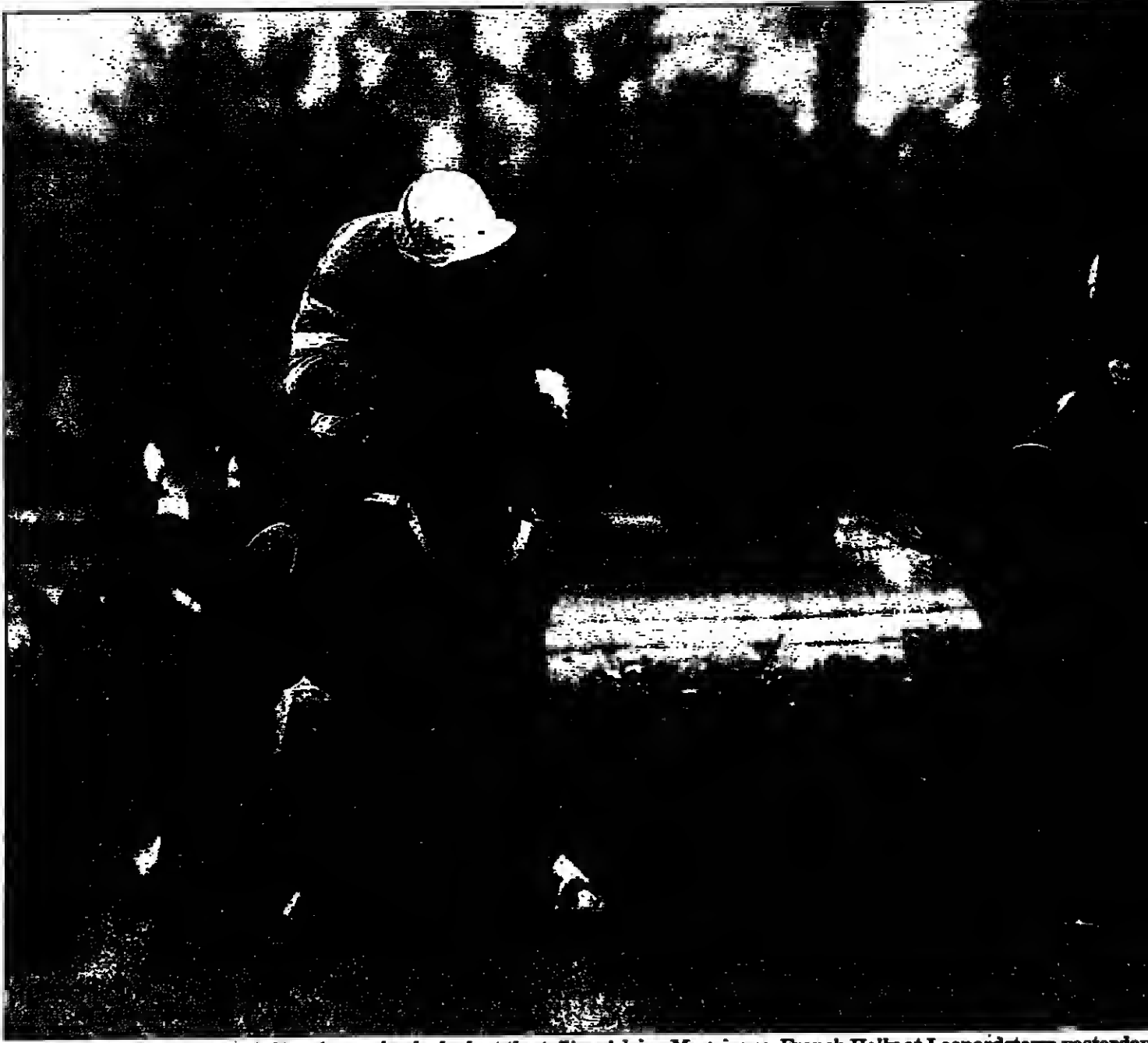
It might have been kidology, but then again, it is very hard to kid bookmakers. They now have a one-horse book on the Champion Hurdle, and while the on-course layers at the

RICHARD EDMONDSON
Nap: Naughty Future
(Wetherby 2.45)
NB: Saleel
(Wetherby 3.15)

Festival are usually keen to take on a hot favourite, Istabraq may be one that even they will duck. They will not need reminding that his victory in last year's race was the opening highlight in a flurry of scoring blows from the punters. By the end of the week, many of them were flat on the canvas.

Istabraq may now be too short for most punters' tastes, but his name will be scribbled in thousands of accumulators, particularly in Ireland, from now until the morning of the race. And when Istabraq arrives at Cheltenham, according to Aidan O'Brien, his trainer, he should be an even better horse than he was yesterday.

"The horse seems to be getting quicker as he gets older,"



Charlie Swan, on Istabraq (left), takes a cheeky look at the toiling Adrian Maguire on French Holly at Leopardstown yesterday

O'Brien said, "and he was 15 kilos heavier than he was when winning this race last year. He will improve a lot from this I'm sure, and he could easily find 7m or more."

Swan, if anything, seemed more confident still. "He's an unreal horse to ride, and he's really turned into a man now," the jockey said.

"Going down the back, I thought that if French Holly kept going we could be in trouble, but after the third last he started to come back a bit and I always had it from then on. I couldn't believe how quickly

he responded. Two years ago, we always thought that two miles might be a bit sharp for him, but now I wouldn't mind if the Champion Hurdle was over a mile and a half."

It sounds as if the case is closed, because the prosecution has no evidence to offer. If forced to produce an Exhibit A, though, it might be that the lack of a pacemaker yesterday forced French Holly to make his own running. He needs to sit behind a fierce pace to produce his best, and should be able to do so at the Festival. Testing ground would probably suit

him too, while anything could happen if one of the early leaders comes down at the first flight.

But no-one will think twice about that when the time comes. Istabraq will be the hottest Champion Hurdle favourite for years, and probably become the first to successfully defend his title since See You Then in 1986. If so, it will be his 15th victory in 17 races over hurdles, and an unthinkable amount of money will then be running on to the rest of the Irish challenge at the Festival. On to horses like Florida

Pearl and Danoli, in fact. Both worked after racing at Leopardstown yesterday, on their way to the Hennessy Gold Cup at the track in a fortnight's time, and then the Gold Cup itself.

Florida Pearl in particular has a mountain of emotion and cash invested in his massive frame already, despite his fall at Leopardstown's Christmas meeting.

He jumped the same fence - the third last - well enough yesterday, and Danoli, too, seems to be coming back to his best. The Irish now have heroes to cheer on both the Tuesday and Thursday of the Festival. And as for the Wednesday? It just happens to be St Patrick's Day.

Pipe keeps a close guard on Cyfor plan

CYFOR MALTA, unraced since winning the Murphy's Gold Cup in November, is to return at Cheltenham on Saturday. The Martin Pipe-trained gelding, who has the Gold Cup or Champion Chase as possible Festival targets, has a choice on Saturday between the Pillar Chase or Ladbrooke Handicap Chase.

"As usual I'm going to sit on the fence until Friday before I decide which he will go for," Pipe said yesterday. Cyfor Malta has missed a clutch of big races since "a slight set-back" following his Murphy's win.

Deano's Beeno is now 7-2 favourite for the Stayers' Hurdle at the Festival following his

impressive victory in Saturday's Long-Distance Hurdle at Haydock. "I was pleased with him at Haydock," Pipe said, "and the likelihood is that he will go straight for the Stayers'."

Of Wabba Sands, runner-up behind Beeno, in the Champion Hurdle Trial, Pipe said: "He'll probably go the

Tote Gold Trophy at Newbury next month or could go straight to the Champion."

Pipe's Blowing Wind, who took a tumble in the same race, has "got a few cuts and grazes but seems all right in himself," Pipe added. "We'll have to wait and see how he is before thinking about where he goes next."

WETHERBY

- 1.15 Uniform
1.45 Tom Silk (nb)
2.15 Prominent Profile
2.45 Naughty Future
3.15 The Butterick Kid
3.45 Samakcan

GOINGS: Soft (Heavy in places).
Left-hand end about. Run-in of 200yds slightly uphill.
Course is NE of town on E155 road junction of A58 and A1. Admission: Club £10 (accompanied under 16s free); Tattersalls £5; Course £10 (or £10 per car with up to four adults. Accompanied under 16s free. CAR PARK: Free.
LEADING TRAINERS: Mrs M. Wetherby 36 wins from 184 runners (21.2%). T. Easterby 22 (13.6%).
LEADING JOCKEYS: L. Wetherby 46 wins from 178 rides (25.8%). P. Niven 33 (18.6%).
FAVOURITES: 200 yds from 184 races (24.2%).
BLINKERS FIRST TIME: None.

- 1.15 PINDER DALE NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 4YO 2m Penalty Value £2,250
1.45 UNIFORM (nb) (D) P. Niven 5 Hail 10 ... J. Duncanson
2.15 COURT CRIB (nb) (D) P. Niven 5 Hail 10 ... J. Duncanson
3.15 COURT CRIB (nb) (D) P. Niven 5 Hail 10 ... J. Duncanson
4.15 COURT CRIB (nb) (D) P. Niven 5 Hail 10 ... J. Duncanson
5.15 COURT CRIB (nb) (D) P. Niven 5 Hail 10 ... J. Duncanson
6.15 COURT CRIB (nb) (D) P. Niven 5 Hail 10 ... J. Duncanson
7.15 COURT CRIB (nb) (D) P. Niven 5 Hail 10 ... J. Duncanson

BETTING: 11-8 Master Pigeon, 15-8 Prominent Profile, 7-2 Court Crrib, 14-1 Meadowbank, 20-1 Global Legend, 25-1 Casual Cash, 33-1 Wabba Sands, 50-1 William Of Orange, 50-1 declared.

FORM GUIDE
Uniform: Flat winner (1/1m) and confirmed the promise she showed on her debut here last month when won by a narrow margin at Catcote. (nb) soft last time. Penalty may prevent her following up here.
Court Crrib: Showed form on the flat in Ireland. Pulled up at Plumpton last month, but better effort next time on C&D soft when held up making headway 5 out when 5th, beaten 6/1. Longest by 10m (1/1m) and 6th worst off, to Simply Graced.
Court Crrib: Has made the running in his last 2 outings and was bettered for the first time when 4th at Catcote on 1/1m last month. Penalty to find out what he has shown so far.
Simply Graced: Unplaced in 3/2yo maidens for Luca Currant. Ran in France last year and finished 3rd of 12 behind Sellen Fame at Day (1/1m) good in August.
Pinder Dale: Won twice in 5 days last Flat season over 1/1m on soft ground. Finished 7th to Vanevalle Place in the November Handicap and looks sure to stay 2m. Grade 4. Appears to need further than this and put up an improved performance at Market Rasen (1/1m) last time when stepped up to 2m. Harder task here.
Stone Block: Maiden Flat handicapper, who showed class on soft ground when 3rd at Ripon (1/1m) in June. Raced 5th behind Flower O'Carroll on Flat form.

VERDICT: Ex-French trained Pinder Dale cannot be completely ruled out with Paul Webber's team running into form though he has no easy introduction against FLOWER O'CARROLL and Uniform. The latter won in the style of an above average novice by ten lengths from Flower O'Carroll's stablemate Dangersman at Catcote last time, but to be on the small side to carry a penalty. Flower O'Carroll improved considerably towards the end of last Flat season and Mick Easterby should have some idea of her chance with the favours on a line through Dangersman.

- 1.45 SKIPLAM NOVICE CHASE (CLASS D) £5,250 added 2m Penalty Value £3,581
1.50 SKIPLAM (nb) (D) P. Niven 5 Hail 10 ... J. Duncanson
2.15 SKIPLAM (nb) (D) P. Niven 5 Hail 10 ... J. Duncanson
3.15 SKIPLAM (nb) (D) P. Niven 5 Hail 10 ... J. Duncanson
4.15 SKIPLAM (nb) (D) P. Niven 5 Hail 10 ... J. Duncanson
5.15 SKIPLAM (nb) (D) P. Niven 5 Hail 10 ... J. Duncanson
6.15 SKIPLAM (nb) (D) P. Niven 5 Hail 10 ... J. Duncanson
7.15 SKIPLAM (nb) (D) P. Niven 5 Hail 10 ... J. Duncanson

BETTING: 4-11 Tom Silk, 8-4 Foundry Lane, 10-1 Founshon Man, 25-1 Independent Grey, 33-1 Clavering.

FORM GUIDE
Clavering: Modest form over hurdles and fences for Howard Johnson and no better in 2 outings for new yard. Jumping remains a problem and let at the 3rd at Doncaster last Monday.
Foundry Lane: Won Irish maiden point-to-point (good) in 1997. For form over hurdles, but was brought down at the 2nd on the chasing debut at Doncaster last Monday. Flat brother to top hurdler Royal Derby, so may do better in the chase.
Independent Grey: Maiden Flat handicapper, who showed class on soft ground when 3rd at Ripon (1/1m) in June. Raced 5th behind Flower O'Carroll on Flat form.

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- 2.15 POKLEY NATIONAL HUNT NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS D) £4,000 added 2m 4f 110yds Penalty Value £3,038
2.20 POKLEY (nb) (D) P. Niven 5 Hail 10 ... J. Duncanson
3.15 POKLEY (nb) (D) P. Niven 5 Hail 10 ... J. Duncanson
4.15 POKLEY (nb) (D) P. Niven 5 Hail 10 ... J. Duncanson
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ANTE-POST

Champion Hurdle	C	H	L	T
1.15 Istabraq	12	47	47	8/13
2.15 French Holly	10	1	1	8/1
3.15 Nautilus	20	1	1	20/1
4.15 Nautilus	20	1	1	20/1
5.15 Nautilus	20	1	1	20/1
6.15 Nautilus	20	1	1	20/1
7.15 Nautilus	20	1	1	20/1
8.15 Nautilus	20	1	1	20/1
9.15 Nautilus	20	1	1	20/1
10.15 Nautilus	20	1	1	20/1
11.15 Nautilus	20	1	1	20/1
12.15 Nautilus	20	1	1	20/1
13.15 Nautilus	20	1	1	20/1
14.15 Nautilus	20	1	1	20/1
15.15 Nautilus	20	1	1	20/1
16.15 Nautilus	20	1	1	20/1
17.15 Nautilus	20	1	1	20/1
18.15 Nautilus	20	1	1	20/1
19.15 Nautilus	20	1	1	20/1
20.15 Nautilus	20	1	1	20/1

Cheltenham, 16 March
Each-way a quarter the odds, places 1, 2, 3
C Cash, H Win, L Loss, T Place

FIRST SHOW

Southwell 2.30				
	C	H	L	S
Bayantral Rock	4-1	4-1	7-2	4-1
Mullin	7-1	13-2	3-2	7-1
Leachle	8-1	2-1	4-1	8-1
Ocher	8-1	8-1	8-1	8-1
Thrane Mole	9-2	8-1	9-1	8-2
Dehlyan	10-1	10-1	4-1	10-1
Grand Chappan	10-1	12-1	12-1	10-1
Inlance	14-1	8-1	14-1	15-1
Young Mopay	14-1	14-1	14-1	15-1
Alize	14-1	14-1	16-1	16-1
Johnson	16-1	16-1	16-1	16-1
Best Coast	16-1	20-1	6-1	20-1
King Uno	20-1	20-1	21-1	25-1
Koetive	20-1	6-1	25-1	21-1
First Prince	25-1	25-1	20-1	25-1
Miss Phoenix	30-1	33-1	34-1	30-1

Defeat fails to silence Pompey fans



GLENN MOORE

Portsmouth
Leeds United

1
5

FOR A club trying to sell itself Portsmouth's 5-1 drubbing by Leeds United on Saturday would appear to be right down in the Gerald Ratner class of advertisement. Alan Ball used the words "woeful" and "awful" to describe his team's second-half performance, but Ratner's famously succinct description of his company's jewellery, "crap", would be equally appropriate.

But while the scoreline might scare off the sort of rich and kindly benefactor Pompey fans hope will rescue them from Martin Gregory's ownership, any putative investors actually present at Fratton Park should have formed a more positive view.

While the team were outclassed by a Leeds team rich in promise, the supporters were not. It was no surprise to hear the Pompey Chimes ringing out from the club's biggest crowd in just under five years as kick-off, nor after Luke Nightingale had put them ahead after eight minutes. But to hear them still being belted out eight minutes from the end, after Leeds had scored their fifth was remarkable.

Alan Ball, whose name was lustily and approvingly chanted long after his team had folded, described them as "fabulous" and David O'Leary, the Leeds boss, called them "a credit to the club".

Literally so. With the club's estimated £4m-plus debt increasing by £40,000 every week, the ground still in need of major refurbishment and most of the better players already sold, the supporters may be Portsmouth's only credit on the balance sheet.

They are, however, a very real asset. As Newcastle and Sunderland have shown, a



Portsmouth's veteran striker Steve Claridge hurdles an attempted tackle by the Leeds midfielder Bruno Ribeiro during Saturday's FA Cup tie at Fratton Park

Allsport

large and dedicated supporter base can provide the financial and emotional drive to transform clubs. But first the foundations must be in place and all that passion will go to waste at Fratton Park unless it is matched in the boardroom.

Having fought off one winding-up order in midweek Portsmouth face another one, issued by the Inland Revenue, on 3 February. There are suggestions that Gregory may offer his 97 per cent stake in the club before then but Ball did not seem optimistic. Nor are the fans who held up banners calling for Gregory to sell. They fear Gregory is planning to build houses on Fratton Park - it is thought the clause

preventing this happening until the club has been relocated lapses in July.

While Portsmouth's future is uncertain, Leeds' appears very bright. Even with eight leading players unavailable they looked a slick outfit, brimming with pace and movement. They lined up for kick off with seven players on the half-way line and maintained that commitment to attack throughout.

"It suits our style to go forward," said David Hopkin, who was an outstanding captain in midfield. "We have a lot of young attacking players with a lot of pace and a lot of talent. Everybody wants the ball, they are all comfortable with it."

O'Leary added: "I believe the

players are enjoying it, this is an extension of what we do in training. Anyone who has seen us over the last few months would think 'This is a side which gives you a go'.

"They want to work for you. With the kids we are young together. They know deep down they are safe in my hands. I'm their friend and they come and see me, they trust me. They know I got in as a kid and think 'Maybe he knows what he's talking about'.

"It wasn't a gamble to play them. When I was the coach I kept asking George [Graham] to play them, once I became manager I was picking the team myself so I thought I'd pick them. They've not surprised me, I have been working with them for two years and knew their quality. But we have got to add a bit, a few quick fixes. I've spent hardly any money and I've had to flog them a bit too much. The difference between us and Manchester United when their crop came through is that they had real quality senior players and could bring people in and leave them out when they needed to."

Not that Leeds were all fresh from kindergarten, they finished with three teenagers but started with just one, Jonathon Woodgate, and had a vein of experience running through the side from Nigel Martyn and David Wetherall, to Gunnar Halle, Hopkins and Jimmy

Floyd Hasselbaink, all 26 or over. Instead it was Portsmouth who had the youngest player on the pitch, Nightingale, who had been at school during the week. He put Pompey ahead, following good work by Jeff Perton and Steve Claridge, but it was to prove a brief glimpse of glory. Two minutes later Leeds levelled with a bad goal to concede. No defender noticed. Harrie stealing up for a short corner routine, and none picked up Wetherall as he headed the subsequent cross in. Harrie scored from a free-kick foolishly conceded by Sammy Igoe six minutes later and, though Pompey played some good football at this stage, with

Floyd Hasselbaink, all 26 or over.

Claridge often involved, that was it.

The third goal, clinically finished by Harry Kewell, knocked the heart out of Portsmouth, who, said Ball angrily, "capitulated". Bruno Ribeiro added a cruel fourth after his shot was massively deflected off Adrian Whitbread and Clyde Wijnhard completed the rout with a classy fifth from Kewell's cross.

There could, and should, have been more with Hasselbaink notably profligate, but Portsmouth might also have had consolation as Martyn produced two exceptional saves to deny Michalis Vlachos and Claridge.

"I said to David O'Leary he's got a fabulous future,"

said Ball. "You can see the excitement, there's ability throughout the side and the kids are tremendous. It's all there for him."

One questioner asked: "Are you envious?" Ball, whose sponsored Mercedes was recently repossessed, replied: "I'm happy here, but it's a massive job at the moment."

Goals: Nightingale (8) 1-0; Wetherall (10) 1-1; Harrie (16) 1-2; Kewell (50) 1-3; Ribeiro (10) 1-4; Wijnhard (82) 1-5.

Portsmouth: (3-5-2) Knight; Watzman (Phillips, 55); Whitbread, Vlachos; Robinson, Igoe; McLaughlin, Perton, Simpson; Claridge, Nightingale (Perton, 70). Substitutes not used: Hines, Pugh (84), Perrett.

Leeds: (4-2-3-1) Martyn; Harrie, Wetherall, Woodgate, Granville (Jones, 84); Halle (Kewell, 82); Hopkins, Ribeiro; Kewell (Wijnhard, 82); Kewell, Hasselbaink. Substitutes not used: Wright, Robinson (84). Referee: G. Whitham (Worthington). Bookings: Landon; Hasselbaink, Ribeiro. Man of the match: Claridge. Attendance: 18,864.

Bickering Magpies have the luck

"BEENA long time since I rock 'n' rolled," Robert Plant blared over St James' Park's public address system at 2.55pm on Saturday. It's been just as long, he might have sung, since the cabinet upstairs had a domestic trophy of note to display.

Not since 1955, in fact, the year Bill Haley and his Comets were rocking around the clock, have Newcastle United won one of English football's major prizes. And the clock is likely to be ticking for some time yet before the glint of silverware is glimpsed on the northern bank of the Tyne.

Though they managed to stay on the seasonal trophy trail

BY SIMON TURNBULL

Newcastle United 3
Bradford City 0

at St James' on Saturday, Newcastle looked far from cup-winning material. Outclassed for the best part of an hour, they were fortunate that Bradford lacked the goalscoring touch to exploit their superiority.

Paul Jewell's polished side lacked luck, too, Jamie Lawrence being denied a clear penalty when brought down by Shay Given in the 27th minute, the keeper's right-hand post stopping a Stuart McCall header in first-half injury time and

the otherwise impressive Robbie Blake missing the sitter of the match a minute before Alan Shearer left Bradford chasing a two-goal deficit.

Newcastle, until they were in that fortuitous comfort zone seven minutes into the second-half, looked precisely what they are: a team in limbo. It was significant, as well as ironic, that all three of their goals came from players uncertain of their place in Ron Gill's scheme of things at St James' Park.

Dietmar Hamann, whose tap-in gave Newcastle the lead in the 32nd minute, has complained in the German press of being ignored both on the pitch

and off it by a boss, he insists, who deems him surplus to requirements. And reports of Shearer being at odds with the dreadlocked Dutchman were hardly dismissed by the glancing cool manner in which the 35m man walked past his manager after his pre-match warm-up. There was not a flicker of recognition between the two.

Even Temur Ketsbaia, who set up the first two goals and scored the third himself with four minutes remaining, was in axe-grinding mood on Saturday. "Everybody makes mistakes," he said, "but when I make one I'm out of the team for weeks."

The Georgian needs to play

in every game for the rest of the season to qualify for another year permit and there are no permanent fixtures in Gill's team. The Newcastle manager continues to shuffle his unsettled pack from week to week and further changes are imminent, with bids for Taribo West and Ibrahim Ba on Milanese tables.

Gullit clearly wants to shuffle out a lot of his inherited playing stock before he settles on a team of his own design - and the uncertainty within his squad shows. It is just as well, as he plays his game of patience, that his side avoided defeat on Saturday. The Toon Army are pin-

ning with increasing longing for the dashing days of old at St James' Park and a loss to lower league opposition would have tried their patience to the limit as they prepare to welcome back Kevin Keegan for Peter Beardsley's testimonial match on Wednesday.

Goals: Hamann (32) 1-0; Shearer (52) 2-0; Ketsbaia (86) 3-0. Newcastle United (4-4-2): Gullit; Griffin, Dabson, Charvet, Dorr, Solano (Giles, 84); Hamann, Speed, Brady; Ketsbaia. Substitutes not used: Hughes, Barton, Anderson, Harper (84). Bradford City (4-4-2): Walsh; Wright (Ramsay, 65); Moore, Whitwood, Jacobs; Lawrence, McCall, Whalley, Beagrie, Blake. Substitutes not used: Dwyer, Ramage, O'Brien, Prudden (88). Referee: P. Ours (Portland). Bookings: Bradford's Moore. Man of the match: Whalley. Attendance: 36,698.

Stockport are sunk by the class divide

"NOT AT all," was the Stockport manager Gary Megson's brief response when asked if it had been an emotional return to the ground both he and his father Don had graced for so long as players.

"The place for emotion is out on the pitch and we didn't show enough emotion, passion or desire. It didn't look like an FA Cup tie." It was an honest assessment of a match his side were lucky to come out of only two goals adrift.

This was an end-to-end cup tie, but the traffic was all from one end to the other, and it was Wednesday who were in the driving seat. Megson's tactics were those of a struggling First Division manager who had adopted a drawn away to an in-form Premiership club - pack your penalty area with defenders and limit the damage in the hope of snatching something on the break.

That the strategy had a modicum of success in the first half was due less to the five man defensive cordon than to the lucky charm Carlo Nash seemed to have suspended over his goal. But the game plan had started to unravel as early as the seventh minute when Tony Dinning, who had been tasked to do a man-marking job on Benito Carbone - whom Megson had correctly identified as Wednesday's main threat - limped off. His replacement, Jim Gannon, did well enough, but few defenders would have tamed the Italian striker in his current form.

"We let him go twice and Wednesday scored twice," said Megson. Carbone set up the first goal with a swivel and cross from the by-line for Wednesday's Brazilian defender Emerson Thome to score his first goal in English football after 16 minutes, and wrapped it up with a spectacular individual strike from 35

BY PHIL ANDREWS

Sheffield Wednesday 2
Stockport County 0

yards early in the second half that left Nash flat-footed as the ball flew over his head and dipped into the net.

But Carbone's influence stretched much further. He and Nicolas Andersson unpicked the Stockport defence at will down the right, and both missed a couple of chances in the first half that would have put Stockport out of the Cup and their misery much earlier.

All County provided to cheer their supporters was a header from Gannon that flew wide and a burst through the middle by Brett Angell which was halted by Wednesday's captain, Peter Atherton, before the striker could get in his shot. But for the most part the difference in class was infinite, with County's hopeful long balls an inadequate response to Wednesday's quick and incisive passing game.

"We didn't play as fluidly as we have recently," said Wednesday's manager, Danny Wilson, "but I was pleased that we kept a third clean sheet in a row. A good cup run is very important to us after the problems we've had over the Di Carlo incident, and a win at any level breeds confidence." The only cloud on his horizon is that victory over another County - Derby - on Saturday could bring the curse of manager of the month down on his head.

Goals: Thome (16) 1-0; Carbone (57) 2-0. Sheffield Wednesday (4-4-2): Snelke; Atherton, Thorne, Walker (Newson, 76); Norcham, Andersson, Rodd, Jonk. Substitutes not used: Pressman (89), Briscoe, Snelke. Stockport County (5-3-2): Nash; Conolly, Woodhouse, Hines, McInnes, Dinning (Gannon, 7); Cook, Michels, Phillips (Hatherton, 84), Angell, Moore. Substitutes not used: Gray, Cooper, Wilshaw. Referee: N. Barry (Southampton). Bookings: Stockport's Woodhouse, Hines. Man of the match: Carbone. Attendance: 20,984.

Derby given glimpse of future by Smith's blast from the past

THE ROAD to Wembley is lined with the corpses of teams who did not deserve to perish. Derby County finally tossed aside Swansea's and left South Wales believing they can improve on a poor Cup record of recent years.

Two quarter-finals are the best they have achieved. Jim Smith has been closer, desperately so when Portsmouth lost to Liverpool on penalties in the semi-finals in 1992, and he would be a popular choice to lead out one of the teams at Wembley on 22 May.

After 30 years in management, he may have mellowed. "Jim Smith, The Tea-Cup Throwing Years" will be only part one of the autobiography - but courses are still on offer in (very) basic English to his cosmopolitan playing staff on requisite occasions, of which half-time on Saturday was one. "I can still turn the air blue when I have to," Smith said. "Some strong words were said, because we'd been very disappointing. Had we not improved, there was a major danger that we would have gone out."

As ever, that was an honest assessment. Swansea had created the only chances in the

BY STEVE TONGUE

Swansea City 0
Derby County 1

first 45 minutes, as well as looking the more determined side: a dreadful indictment of men on Premiership salaries. After Dean Burton and goalkeeper Mart Poom had been left lying injured following the home side's first attack, Spencer Prior, the captain, was one of two players ready to meet dragon's fire with fire.

Burton, still suffering, was withdrawn before half-time, allowing Kevin Harper an opportunity to prove that his worth is more than the £300,000 Smith paid for him earlier in the season. The former Hibernian striker belatedly gave the home goalkeeper Roger Freestone some work to do, though nothing initially that compared to Mart Poom's two stops from Swansea's Nick Cusack. It was nine minutes from time before Horacio Carbonari produced one touch of class to elude his man and place a cross on the unmarked Harper's head.

Matthew Bound's header was the last act of defiance from the dying Swans, whose

proud and impressive manager John Hollins has transformed them from the ugly ducklings placed just above the bottom of the Third Division last May.

Now Hollins and the club's reconstituted board, with a new £25m stadium to fund, may find it difficult to resist the offers that will undoubtedly come in for players like the wide midfielder Stuart Roberts. "Over-all they have to be very proud of what they've achieved," Hollins said. "Now we've got to get stuck in and hopefully get out of this league."

Meanwhile Derby, whose last visit to the Vetch had been for a Third Division fixture, were setting their sights on seeing the Twin Towers before they are demolished. They will need to show greater commitment to the cause, but there is every chance of Smith ensuring that.

Goals: Harper (81) 0-1. Swansea City (4-4-2): Freestone; Jones, Bound, O'Leary (Bird, 82); Howard; Roberts, Cusack, Lacey, Coates (Appley, 88); Warton, Alsop. Substitutes not used: Price, Jenkins, Jones (84). Derby County (3-4-1-2): Poom; Prior, Carbonari, Schuster, Lumsden, Currie, Bohren (Kozak, 82); Dongo, Sano (Elliot, 62); Burton (Harper, 44); Sturridge. Substitutes not used: Hunt, Hault (84). Referee: G. Barber (Tring). Bookings: Swansea's Warton, Alsop, Cusack, Derby's Schuster, Sturridge. Man of the match: Cusack. Attendance: 11,382.

Marcelo steals it as County pay high price for lack of self-belief

AS THE oldest club in the football league, Notts County tend to do things at their own pace, so while the other 15 FA Cup fixtures this weekend were fourth-round ties, Nottingham was trapped in a third-round time-war.

After this bumbling of a replay, they are unfortunate not to be in the fifth-round hat after a defeat in extra-time to last year's semi-finalists. "I thought we were out," Sheffield United's manager, Steve Bruce, commented afterwards. And so they should have been.

As hosts, Notts County were overwhelmingly generous, conceding three late goals in nine minutes to a Sheffield side who were, for the most part, unimaginative and pedestrian. County, in contrast, were a breath of fresh air and their defeat came down to a lack of concentration and self-belief which finds them fourth from bottom of the Second Division.

History, ancient and modern, dictated a cup classic. Notts County's Gary Owers played on the losing side for Sunderland in the 1992 FA Cup final while Steve Bruce was twice a Wembley winner with Manchester United, his last medal coming

BY PETER CONCHIE

Notts County 3
Sheffield United 4

a century after Notts County's only Cup success at Goodison Park in 1894. Jimmy Logan was the East-Midlanders' hero that afternoon, becoming the first player to score a hat-trick in an FA Cup final. A year later he died of pneumonia after a team-mate forgot to pack the kit for an away trip.

While Saturday's result was not a tragedy of that order, events, like their truly dreadful pitch, cut up rough for Notts County. Gary Jones put them ahead with a shot high into the net, before Vasilis Borbokis regained undeserved parity with a neat free-kick which wrong-footed the goalkeeper, Darren Ward.

Shaun Murray, by a street the classiest player on the pitch, put County ahead with a beautifully struck left-footed drive from 30 yards and Jones increased their lead with seven minutes to go with his sixth FA Cup goal of the season.

With the never-say-die spirit of their manager, David Holdsworth pulled one goal

back for United before the Brazilian forward Marcelo equalised almost on the final whistle. In extra-time, as heavy legs dragged in the sand, it was the Sheffield stealers who emerged as unlikely winners as Marcelo scored his second goal from close range.

Sam Allardyce, the Notts County manager, remarked that he was "gutted" and "very down and disappointed by the outcome."

"We have to defend a lot better than that," he said. "We just didn't defend properly and when you're 3-1 up you just don't let teams back into the game. At the moment, football is not a game I'm enjoying."

A feeling exacerbated, no doubt, by the fact that his team had only themselves to blame.

Goals: Jones (19) 1-0; Borbokis (40) 1-1; Murray (57) 2-1; Jones (83) 3-1; Holdsworth (85) 3-2; Marcelo (89) 3-3. Notts County (4-3-3): Ward, Pearce (Torrey, 108); Richardson, Redmile, Newlin, Ibbard, Owers, Murray, Jones, Hughes (Karia, 56); Dwy (Sturridge, 99). Substitutes not used: Beattie (84), Doolley. Sheffield United (4-4-2): Kelly, Owen, Sandford, Holdsworth, O'Connor (Ford, 75); Borbokis, Henry (Morris, 61); Woodhouse, Jakes, Stuart, Marcelo (Jacobson, 110). Substitutes not used: Walker, Davis (84). Referee: A. Wiley (Stafford).

Bookings: Notts County's Murray. Sending off: Sheffield's Lee. Man of the match: Murray. Attendance: 7,499.

Hayward the happy Villa supporter

STEVE HAYWARD'S footballing pedigree is hardly unique. He was born, for instance, in the same year as Stan Collymore, brought up in a neighbouring part of the Midlands and may well have rubbed shoulders with the £7m enigma on the Hotte End. On Saturday night, however, Hayward was probably the only Aston Villa supporter out celebrating the club's demise in the FA Cup.

While speculation raged about the extent to which Collymore's no-show had affected the Premiership title contenders, there was no doubt about Hayward's contribution to the defeat of his boyhood heroes. As the driving force of Fulham's midfield, he created the first goal for the Birmingham City-supporting Simon Morgan and claimed the second himself after his free-kick took a deflection off Paul Peschisolidi.

It was, said Hayward with what was possibly understatement, his greatest day since arriving at Fulham from Carlisle shortly before the advent of Mohamed Al Fayed and Kevin Keegan late in 1997. As a boy he had watched Villa and trained with them before committing himself to Derby, while last week his spare time had been eaten up by the problem of acquiring more than 50 tickets for his extended family.

Whatever they cost, it was worth the outlay. Once the two-way bridge-head to the last 16 had been established, the control exerted by the Second Division promotion favourites was so complete that beating the side who have led the Premiership virtually all season never really felt like a giant-killing.

Hayward, who also scored at Southampton in the third round, reasoned that teams

BY PHIL SHAW

Aston Villa 0
Fulham 2

from the top flight are not accustomed to being "hustled and hassled" the way Fulham snapped at Villa's heels. They also allowed opponents "more room to play", which was surely an indictment of John Gregory's side on the day rather than the Premiership as a whole.

Kevin Keegan, still working under the nonsensical title of chief operating officer, was equally effusive. Apart from Liverpool's Wembley triumph of 25 years ago, the Cup has not been kind to Fulham's manager, but it now offers them a welcome respite from their role as the Manchester United, the moneybags, of the lower leagues.

"We were totally relaxed," said Keegan. "It was the exact opposite of what we experience in the League every week. The boot was on the other foot. But what really pleased me was the way we played. We weren't scrambling around, but playing properly. The better the quality of the opposition, the better we play."

That much was perhaps to be expected, given that Keegan has lavished some £10m on upgrading the Craven Cottage squad. Like Hayward's ticket-scrounging spree, it looked like money well spent, with no more impressive than the £2.1m captain, Chris Coleman, at the heart of an unflappable three-man defensive unit.

Coleman, who was at Crystal Palace with both Collymore and Gareth Southgate, must have anticipated a more arduous afternoon. But with Dion Dublin injured and Collymore missing, presumed sulking, on a day when his ability to turn

games as a substitute might well have been crucial, the Fulham goalkeeper Malik Taylor was seldom stretched.

The goals came early enough for Gregory to believe Villa could still produce the kind of fightback that earned victory from an identical position at home to both Stromsgodset and Arsenal. Instead, Coleman and company stood firm and Fulham's front two held the ball up so well that the expected second-half siege never materialised.

Such successes, argued Keegan, made the supporters believe Fulham were "going places". In fact, they lost the divisional leadership to Preston on Saturday, but could regain it by overcoming Oldham tomorrow, when the Belgian utility player Philippe Albert will be available at the start of his loan spell from Newcastle.

Talking of Tyneside, Keegan will make a brief but emotional playing comeback on Wednesday in Peter Beardsley's testimonial match. His adoring public should see a happier, healthier man than the haggard figure who left St James' Park. The relationship with London's romantic underachievers is obviously proving mutually beneficial. Fulham having reached the fifth round for the first time since their run to the final in 1975.

Goals: Morgan (8) 0-1; Hayward (45) 0-2.

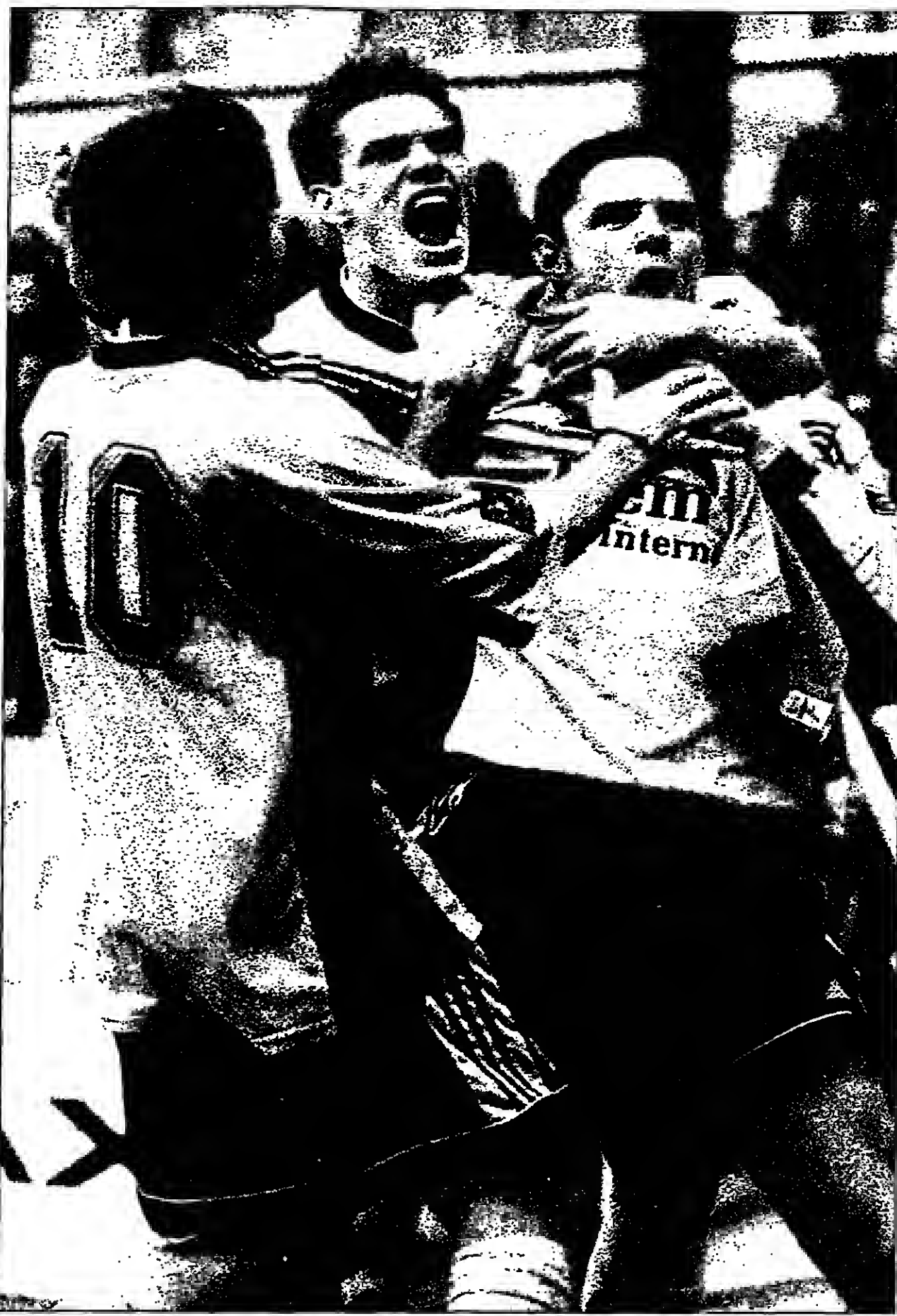
Aston Villa (3-5-2): Oakes; Ehigbo, Southgate, Barry, Watson, Hendrie, I Taylor, Scimeca, Wright (Nassell, 55); Morgan, Joachim, Substitutes not used: Grayson, Ferrarini, Hughes, Rachel (84).

Fulham (3-5-2): M Taylor; Symons, Morgan, Coleman, Finnan, Collins, Bracewell, Hayward, Brevett; Peschisolidi (Smith, 82), Horsfield, Substitutes not used: Trott, Salako, Hayles, Arends (94).

Referee: D Elleray (Harrow-on-the-Hill).

Bookings: Villa; Ehigbo, Hendrie, Watson, Finnan, Finnan, Collins.

Man of the match: Coleman. Attendance: 35,260.



Fulham's Steve Hayward (right) is mobbed by his team-mates after scoring against Aston Villa. News Team

Barmby keeps Everton afloat

BY DAVE HADFIELD

Everton 1
Ipswich Town 0

ONE OF the few bright spots for Everton during a barren Premiership campaign has been the form and influence of Don Hutchison.

A player generally regarded as an unreliable luxury during his time across Stanley Park with Liverpool has returned to Merseyside after his travels to become central to Everton's hopes of achieving anything this year.

In the absence of Olivier Dacourt and John Collins on Saturday, Hutchison, promoted to captain, had not only to provide much of the attacking thrust from midfield, but also to anchor it. He did it so effectively that Everton overcame their customary lack of scoring potential plus the added handicap of playing almost half of the game with 10 men with some comfort.

Hutchison made an important contribution to the winning goal, showing great tenacity in pursuing a mis-hit shot from Danny Cadamarteri - who was later booked for diving by the referee who took a more lenient view of David Ginola's tumbles last week - almost to the sideline and then putting in a telling cross that was eventually converted by Nick Barmby.

They were not helped by the sending off of Marco Materazzi for a second booking after tangling with David Johnson. It was his second dismissal of a season during which he has already served three suspensions - a record that has limited his value to his new club.

Everton, in fact, have defensive problems building up. Apart from Fabian Wilnis's disallowed strike in injury time, they kept Ipswich at bay with some ease, but they could find their resources stretched by Materazzi's continuing disciplinary strife and the addition of Alex Cleland to their injury list. Cleland, performing well in an unaccustomed role in a back three, will be out for six weeks with a calf injury.

For all Hutchison's industry, Everton's relative security in the Premiership is based more on defensive solidity than anything else. If they start to struggle in that department, as well as in front of goal, it could yet be a hard winter at Goodison.

Goals: Barmby (38) 1-0.
Everton (3-5-2): Myers; Cleland (O'Kane, 87), Materazzi, Unsworth, Walters, Grant, Hutchison, Barmby, Ball, Oler, Cadamarteri (Branch, 75). Substitutes not used: Jacobs, Wilson, Simonsen (84).
Ipswich Town (3-5-2): Wright; Trevis (Laner, 84), Mowbray, Venus, Wilnis, Dyer, Stockwell (Bramble, 58), Holland, Chapman; Johnson, Patra (Naylor, 81), Substitutes not used: Holster, Bracy (84).
Referee: M Riley (Lerds).
Bookings: Everton; Barmby, Cadamarteri, Ipswich; Trevis, Mowbray, Johnson, Bramble. Sending-off: Materazzi.
Man of the match: Hutchison. Attendance: 28,854.

Desailly fillip for Chelsea

MARCEL DESAILLY has given Chelsea a boost by declaring that he has no intention of leaving at the end of the season.

The French World Cup winner had been quoted last week that he could spring a "surprise" in May by leaving to seek another challenge if the Blues won the title.

However, on his return to London, the defender insisted that his comments had been taken out of context.

"It's been a lot of noise over nothing," he maintained. "It's true that I said I would leave Chelsea one day and that it is better to go after winning - it's easier, you are appreciated more and you leave the supporters with a good memory of you. But that's all. There's no problem. I have a four-year contract here."

The Frenchman may not be in the starting line-up at the Manor Ground for tonight FA Cup third-round tie against Oxford United, given his recent injury problems and the form of Michael Duberry. There will be some enforced changes to Chelsea's line-up, though. Albert Ferrer is suspended and Celestine Babayaro is on international duty with Nigeria.

Oxford's on-loan goalkeeper Paul Gerrard is unavailable, the midfielder Joey Beauchamp is suspended while the giant centre-forward Kevin Francis is injured.

Ginola stays on his feet to good effect

IT WAS almost too much of a good thing that David Ginola has been spotted handing over his shirt to referee Dermot Gallagher. "I'm not kidding," Wimbledon's manager Joe Kinnear said, up to mischief with a tasty morsel of information. "Ginola was asked for the shirt and he took it to the referee's dressing-room. Saw it myself."

All week long Kinnear had sought an edge in the ongoing saga of Ginola's thespian activities and with three more matches to play against Tottenham he was not about to pass up an opportunity. "Just about sums things up," he said.

More to the point Ginola had risen above the grind of a hard fought Cup-tie and pan-

tomime boozing without incurring the wrath of Kinnear's defenders. In fact, Gallagher never had cause to exercise his judgement in matters of legality. "Perhaps he [Ginola] is realising that he doesn't need to act up," Kinnear said, "and if that is the case our complaints after last week's match have achieved something. It wasn't so much Ginola's diving for penalties that bothered me as having players sent off."

George Graham had been determined to stay out of the controversy. "I haven't got involved," he said when we spoke on Friday. "I've told David [Ginola] that the best way to deal with all this is on the field."

If Ginola does not always per-



KEN JONES

form to Graham's satisfaction on alien territory (he has been repeatedly substituted away from home) he justified a full stint in the 1-1 draw that added another encounter to the serial. The goal that brought Tottenham level in the 72nd

minute, after Robbie Earle's perfectly executed overhead kick on the hour had raised Wimbledon's hopes of progression, further emphasised the extent of Ginola's ability and imagination.

Nothing much promised for Tottenham when Ginola drifted infield and took a square pass from Stephen Carr with Wimbledon's defence packed in front of him. Pausing, Ginola swayed left then right before slipping past Earle to fire a low shot past Neil Sullivan.

Maybe Graham will prove better for Ginola than any manager he has played under. "I thought he was terrific," Graham said. "Did everything I expect from him."

Ginola's complaint that he does not see enough of the ball in away matches is met by Graham's crushing logic. "It's bound to happen," the Tottenham manager replies. "The home team sees more of the ball, takes more of the initiative."

If Ginola is coming to terms with a pretty obvious fact and responds further to Graham's demanding influence, the best of him may well be seen in Tottenham's colours.

Some of Ginola's work, his sleight of foot, strength on the ball and two-footed accuracy was of the highest order. "Yes, I think he should score more often," Graham smiled, "and that's something he can work on."

As for who prevails in cup ties yet to be played between these teams, it does not seem that there is much more than a goal between them. "We'll certainly know each other well by the time it's all over," Kinnear said.

All over, Kinnear has players to bring back. Kinnear thinks that they may last the course better. "It's going to be tight," he said when conveying the unspoken impression that he was not entirely pleased with the outcome of Saturday's proceedings.

Some people present felt, cynically, that the gifting of Ginola's shirt was a sound investment. That, however, would be unfair to Gallagher, who could not be faulted even when

allowing Justin Edinburgh, who had already been booked, to escape the dismissal that seemed inevitable when he flattened Jason Euell.

Reporting that Euell had been left with an ankle injury, Kinnear denounced the perpetrator. It made a change from complaining about the shirtless one.

Goals: Earle (61) 1-0; Ginola (72) 1-1.
Substitutes (4-4-2): Sullivan, Cunningham, Blackwell, Perry, Thatcher, Ardley (Carr, 75), Roberts, Earle, M Hughes, Leaburn, Euell (C. Hughes, 80). Substitutes not used: Kumbie, Kennedy, Heald (84).
Wimbledon Hotspur (4-4-2): Walker; Carr, Vega, Campbell, Edinburgh, Fox (Ferdinand, 73), Freund, Anderson, Ginola; Verste, Armstrong. Substitutes not used: Caldwell, Intra, Sinton, Bardsen (84).
Referee: O Gallagher (Banbury).
Bookings: Wimbledon; Ardley, Hughes, Tottenham; Edinburgh.
Man of the match: Ginola. Attendance: 22,279.

Kidd's able Rovers the fortune hunters

BRIAN KIDD has one thing going for him as he makes his first steps in management: he may or may not be a tactical genius but there is no doubt fortune is smiling on him.

Like his predecessors at Blackburn, Ray Harford and Roy Hodgson, his luck does not extend to injuries but, unlike the managerial ghosts of the past, the results are going in his favour. Who needs most of your first team if you can get away with acts of FA Cup travesty like this?

Throughout this class there was a Premiership-grade team performing but it was not the team in blue and white halves. Sunderland, the runaway leaders of the First Division, were by far the better side, yet somehow they managed to bow out at the fourth round stage.

Partly that was their own fault because their reluctance to push them forward undermined their master class in passing, but most of all they fell victim to the flow that is going with Kidd.

That seemed to have run out when Blackburn had Jeff Kenna sent off after 62 minutes for two bookable offences and their goalkeeper John Filan

BY GUY HODGSON

Blackburn Rovers 1
Sunderland 0

carried off after a heavy fall. Even Kidd was wondering whether the 1999 Cup run was coming to an end. "I was hoping my mum had lit plenty of candles for me," he said. "Big ones, too."

Somebody had lit something because four minutes later Blackburn grabbed the goal they scarcely deserved. Keith Gillespie headed goalwards and then picked himself off the floor to crash the ball into the roof of the net after Nathan Blake's point-blank shot had been saved by Thomas Sorensen.

To put it mildly, the goal had been against the run of play. After 19 minutes Quinn's angle was out by fractions as he reached Phillips' cross just ahead of Filan and in the second half Phillips put the ball into the net only to have his celebrations curtailed by a mysterious offside decision.

Once Rovers' goal had gone in Sunderland moved forward with the persistence of the beaming rain but the closest they came to scoring came

when Quinn's shot at the far post shaved the goal.

"Sometimes you do not get what you deserve," Peter Reid, the Sunderland manager, said. "I know it's a cliché but if your name isn't on the Cup there's not much you can do about it."

"Cup football is all about getting to the next round and we didn't do it," he continued, dispelling the theory that another run might have been a wish too far when promotion to the Premiership is first priority. "If you go down to the dressing-room you'll see the players are very disappointed."

Reid's demeanour seemed to suggest the performance had been a considerable antidote to gloom because it suggested Sunderland will have enough resources to survive this time when they come up. Anyway, there is a wider open gap to Wembley via the Worthington Cup semi-finals this week.

As for Blackburn, anything seems possible with Kidd on this winning streak and if they can get anything like their first team together they have every chance of getting to the final for the first time since 1960.

In the meantime they and the local police might address



Kidd: On winning streak

the chronic traffic problems that bedevil Ewood Park. On Saturday there were still jams getting out of one of the main car parks two hours after the match had finished which, when the crowd is only 30,000, is a long way short of adequate.

Blackburn want big crowds to watch them, but hours of traffic tedium is just about the easiest way to deter them.

Goals: Gillespie (68) 1-0.
Blackburn Rovers (3-4-3): Filan (Flowers, 45); Pescoscatto (Blake, 84), Henschel, Brown; Kenna, Carr, Wilson, Davidson; Gillespie, Ward, Duff (Carr, 63). Substitutes not used: Thomas, Taylor.
Sunderland (4-4-2): Sorensen; Madi, McVie, Butler (Smith, 79), Gray, Rae (Sunderland, 70), Carr, McDonald, Johnson; Oller (Dicks, 88), Phillips. Substitutes not used: Ball, Marshall (84).
Referee: S Long (Barnsley).
Bookings: Blackburn; Henschel; Sunderland; McCann. Sending-off: Blackburn; Kenna.
Man of the match: Kidd. Attendance: 30,125.

Coventry fill void as Boateng exits early

IF EVER a scoreline was misleading, this would be it. Coventry, on the back foot for the entire second half following George Boateng's bizarre dismissal, were hanging on by their fingertips to a place in the fifth round of the FA Cup for the third season running when Leicester, who had spurned half a dozen clear chances to draw level, won a corner with two minutes to play.

Steve Guppy's reliable left foot swung it over and there was captain Steve Walsh, unmarked at the far post and seemingly certain to score. Instead, his downward header merely sparked a scramble in the Coventry six-yard area but, with almost the entire Leicester team surrounding it, the ball somehow eluded them all.

Coventry's Noel Whelan broke away and fed Paul Telfer, who raced through to end the contest. Another breakthrough goal by Steve Froggatt in injury time was harsh on Leicester.

Having said that, their manager Martin O'Neill can hardly complain. Playing at home, against a team with only 10 men for 45 minutes, they had ample opportunity to at least repeat the 1-1 scoreline the last time

BY ADAM SZRETER

Leicester City 0
Coventry City 3

these two sides met in the Cup, back in 1952.

On that occasion Coventry won the replay 4-1 so maybe it would have been fruitless anyway, but O'Neill was still cursing his luck after Eddie Heskey and Muzzy Izzet each missed two good chances to equalise.

Had either scored the decision to play Izzet up front in the absence of the injured Tony Cottee could hardly have been criticised, but with hindsight Leicester may have been better served with Izzet and Neil Lennon together in midfield.

The pattern of the game after the break had been determined by three incidents before it. Whelan's exquisite shot from the angle of the penalty area that gave Coventry the lead came amid a spate of bookings, and when O'Neill attempted to return the ball to one of his players for a quick throw-in, Boateng became the sixth to go into Alan Willsie's notebook after blocking O'Neill's throw with his hands. Deliberate handball? Surely

not. Time-wasting, perhaps, but it was a moot point and Boateng was clearly riled as, two minutes later, he crashed into Theo Zagorakis on the edge of the Coventry area and was shown the red card.

Had that influenced the result, the mutual respect between two of the most demonstrative managers in the Premiership would have been tested to the limit, as Coventry's Gordon Strachan was clearly displeased that O'Neill had appealed to the referee to discipline Boateng.

As it is Strachan, for once, had little to moan about and must be hoping his side has turned a corner in recent weeks. For O'Neill and Leicester, there are only two paths they can go and they will do well to avoid the one that sees Coventry coming the other way.

Goals: Whelan (16) 0-1, Telfer (89) 0-2; Froggatt (90) 0-3.
Leicester City (4-4-2): Keller; Sinclair, Elliott, Walsh, Uthmanye (Coggart, 75); Innes, Zagorakis (Parker, 51), Lennon, Guppy; Izzet, Heskey. Substitutes not used: Karmark, Wilson, Applehead (84).
Coventry City (4-4-2): Hodgman, Edwards, Shaw, Williams, Burrows; Boateng, Sinclair, McArdle (Clement, 77), Froggatt, Whelan, Huckerby (Ellis, 83). Substitutes not used: Breen, Auld, Ogilvie (84).
Referee: A White (Chester-le-Street).
Bookings: Leicester; Izzet, Sinclair, Coventry; Burrows, Williams, Edwards. Sending-off: Coventry; Boateng.
Man of the match: Hodgman. Attendance: 21,207.

Solskjaer sting in United's tail

David Ashdow

Goals: Orosco [2] 0-1, Yorke [56] 1-1; Salsaker [90] 2-1.

Manchester United (4-4-2): Schmeichel; G. Neville, Berg (Johnsen), Moll, Stam, Klok (Solsaker); Berg, Bechthorn, Ball (Scholke); 68 Keane, Giggs, Yorke, Cole. Substitutes used: P. Neville, Van der Grinte [8].

Liverpool (3-5-2): James; Carragher, Mainstone, Harbuzics, Hegggen, Redknapp, Owen [70], Berger, Glynn; Fowler, S. Smith, McManis, McManis, McManis, Leonardson, Friedel [64].

Bookings: Manchester United: Ball, Keane, Giggs, Scholke. Liverpool: Martens, Owen.

Referee: G. Poll (Thing).

Man of the match: Carragher. £4.50.

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St Albans Road, Watford

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Emmanuel Petit departs as the referee Steve Dunn brandishes the red card, much to Arsenal's fury.

MONDAY REVIEW

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • LISTINGS • TELEVISION

He's partial to Donna Karan, owns a nice place in Cannes and loves pansies. He's an artist and writer of note. Meet Jimmy Boyle, no longer Scotland's most violent man

The hard man of sculpture

Jimmy Boyle - ex-lifer, and once "The Most Violent Man in Scotland" - is a very successful sculptor, and a rich man these days. He mostly lives in Edinburgh, in a magnificent, 12-roomed, seven-balconied house done up in Mediterranean-style terracotta and blues. It also has a lovely landscaped garden, complete with ponds, a verdigris fish fountain thingy, pebbly bits with palm trees sticking out and a deliciously twee wheelbarrow planted with winter pansies. Is this, I ask, what kept you going through all those years in solitary, Jimmy? The thought: One day, I will get out of here and have an old wheelbarrow filled with winter pansies? I WILL NOT LET THEM BREAK ME! He laughs heartily, throwing his head back. There are quite a few spooky scars on his neck, I note. "Oh aye," he says. "It was the thought of pansies that kept me going. Oh aye. Ha Ha!"

Jimmy Boyle is 55, and quite a compact man with white hair and very blue eyes. He is, today, divinely dressed - a deep blue Donna Karan navy shirt ("she's my favourite designer..."), gold Cartier glasses, little Italian boots of such exquisitely soft leather you can see his toes fluting from within. He has another house in the south of France. He drives a glittering red Rolls Royce and a glossy blue BMW. He and his wife, Sarah, a psychiatrist whom he met and married while still in prison, have two children - Suzi, 14, and Kydd, 11 - who go to private schools and have piano lessons. "I'm very strict about the piano lessons," he likes good food, and is something of a gourmet cook. "The last meal I made? Lemon chicken with green garden peas. That's fresh green garden peas." He tried to do lobster recently, buying a live one from his fishmonger. "But when I put it in the boiling water, it screamed," he recounts with horror, yet no irony. "It then stuck a claw out. It was awful." He keeps an excellent wine cellar. "I like Burgundy and Bordeaux. Plus champagne, of course."

In the end, we go for an impromptu lunch at a Spanish restaurant in town, where he orders the most expensive wine on the wine list. He then tries to pay with one of his glistening credit cards, but I suddenly decide I won't have it. I can be quite showy, too, in my own little way. We fight over the bill.

"Mine." "No, Mine." "No, Mine." "Listen," I am finally forced to say, "I have something of a violent past myself. I used to make my little sister play Who Can Keep Their Hand In Really Hot Water The Longest, you know. And while I never knew the Krays as such, I once sat opposite the Kranksies on a train to Manchester. This puts the wind up him and he surrenders. "OK, OK, you pay," he cries. It wasn't very pleasant having to sit opposite the Kranksies all the way to Manchester. But in terms of later using the experience as a tool of intimidation, I have always found it works quite magnificently.

Anyway, the point I'm trying to make here is that Jimmy now leads a very good life - and visibly so. He enjoys it, I'm sure. Who wouldn't? But I think in Jimmy's case it's not just about enjoyment. It is also, I think, an act of revenge, and possibly quite a brilliant one, if not the ultimate one. For most of his life, he has seen things in terms of Them and Us. Us was his ma and his brothers and his mates from the Gorbals, with whom he progressed from vandalism and thieving to running money-lending rackets, slicing up late payers and, finally, murder. He was convicted in 1967 for the killing of a rival hoodlum, Babs Mooney, who was sliced open from forehead to abdomen. He still maintains that while, yes, he did slash Babs about a bit, he didn't kill him. It was a mate of his who did. But he couldn't grass him up. His mate was one of Us.



THE DEBORAH ROSS INTERVIEW

Them? Well, first teachers and the police, then prison officers and governors. While serving his life sentence, he got an additional six years for attempting to murder six prison officers in one go, and a further six for attacking another. So he was always fighting, fighting, fighting Them, but never triumphing. Now, though, he has triumphed. His good life. His designer shirts. His villas. That, I imagine, really gets to Them. Any truth in this, Jimmy?

"Oh aye," he says, happily. "It is revenge. It's revenge on people who don't understand that people can change, and change for the better. Because of the way I am now, I am a target. I'm not talking of targets in the criminal sense. I'm a target for the authorities. People in the prison system are much more comfortable living with failure than success. They are quite happy for people to go in and out of the system. I am probably the biggest success the Scottish prisons have ever had, but they won't let me go into one of their prisons. Instead of taking kudos from what I've become, their attitude is that I somehow beat the system."

I know some people have a problem showing the likes of Jimmy Boyle any kind of reverence, but I think this is nonsense, frankly. He is an intelligent man. He has a lot to say about the culture that produces violent criminals, and the system that consistently fails to redeem them. Plus he has a certain integrity. He has set up The Gateway Exchange in Edinburgh, which helps disadvantaged addicts. The proceeds from his bestselling, gripping autobiography, *A Sense of Freedom*, which he wrote in prison in 1977 on an old Olivetti "while still teaching myself to type", also went to various good causes. He does not want, he says, "to prostitute" his experiences. He rarely gives interviews, and is only doing so today because he has written his first novel, and has been persuaded to plug it. The novel, *Hero Of The Underworld*, is about a man released after many years in a criminal mental institution and yet manages to embark on a new kind of life. It is quite compelling - "I've heard it mentioned in the same breath as the Booker," says Jimmy, modestly - and he is a fine writer, I think.

Still, it is as a sculptor that he is mainly known. He has a studio attached to the house, and we wander over. He works in bronze, with a hammer and chisel. His most recent pieces have been inspired by the suffering in Rwanda and Bosnia. Lots of groups of elongated figures, with limbs entangled, and faces frozen in screams. I don't know much about art, being something of a cheerful, Athens poster sort of person, but can tell there is something emotionally powerful going on here. He sells to private collectors and galleries all over the world, but never in Scotland, because he can't be sure that whoever is buying it is doing so because they like the work, or because of his notoriety. He will not sell to Saatchi. "Because I don't like what he does and can afford not to." He saw the *Sensation* exhibition when it came to Edinburgh and thought it "the biggest pile of rubbish" he'd ever seen.

He discovered sculpture when, in 1973, he was sent to The Special Unit at Barlinnie Prison, an experimental unit that focused more on rehabilitation than confinement, where prisoners were encouraged to express themselves with-



Jimmy Boyle learnt to sculpt in prison. 'It was like a dam bursting in me.' But the authorities refuse to acknowledge him as a model ex-prisoner. 'I am probably the biggest success Scottish prisons have ever had, but their attitude is that I beat the system' Colin McPherson

out violence, and where Jimmy experienced his remarkable redemption. "One day they brought in a woman, an art therapist. A lot of prison staff were against it, saying we'd rape her. But the fact was we were impressed with her. We were combing our hair and saying things like: 'Don't swear, or she'll no come back.' She was quite good-looking as well, and we hadn't seen a woman in years. One day she brought in seven pounds of clay and I just worked on it and did a portrait of one of the guys inside. It was like a dam bursting in me." His sculptures now sell for around £10,000 each. The Special Unit has since closed. "They said it was too expensive to run." He adds that I must visit his place in Cannes: "There's a swimming pool and exotic garden, and I do throw the best parties there."

I ask him what his mum, Bessie, who died while he was still banged up, would have made of his transformation. He says: "I suppose it's the biggest regret of my life, that my mum's not here, and I have to live with the fact that I put her in an early grave. In a sense, the person I am now is the one she made me. The one thing she gave me was unequivocal love. And I don't mean that in a wishy-washy sense. She made great sacrifices for me and my brothers. Yet she didn't live to see the person she made. The last time I saw her, I was awaiting a High Court trial for attempted murder of a prison officer. I was taken to the visiting room by eight prison officers. My mum had cancer at this time, and she came in with my cousin Freddie, who'd been knocked down by a bus and crippled. When they came in, the vision of the two of them got to me, but I couldn't show any emotion. You can't in front of prison officers. I could have reached over and cuddled her, but I didn't. I just said: 'Ma, this is too much for you, isn't it?' And for the first time, she said: 'Aye son.' Ten days later she was dead."

There are tears in Jimmy's eyes. He loved his mum, all right. I say OK. I can see you're upset, but you had choices, didn't you? You could have spared her all the pain. You didn't have to do bad things. He says he did. The culture he grew up in dictated it. He never had any choices. He says: "I began my life sentence the day I came out the womb." He says this is not an excuse. It's reality. His dad had been a safe-blower who was killed in a mob fight when Jimmy was five. He has few memories of him. "And the more I've found out

about him, the more I don't like him. I was told one story that was too much for me. My auntie told me she remembers my mum ironing a shirt for him, because he was going out, and then after he left she looked out the window, and saw him going off arm-in-arm with his girlfriend. My mum shouted at her: 'My dad then came up and said to my mum: 'Don't you ever fucking embarrass me again like that.' That was the brutal world they lived in."

His mum brought up the four boys - Jimmy's older brothers, Pat and Tommy, and his younger brother, Harry - in one room and one kitchen in a Gorbals tenement. She did three cleaning jobs to support them, leaving the house at 5am and returning at 9pm. She always, Jimmy remembers, smelled of "detergent" and had "these wrinkled hands from all the washing". Jimmy was largely allowed to run free in a community that did not entirely disapprove of crime or violence. In some ways, these were the only things that could make you somebody. "As kids we'd hang around the chippie, and the chip man would kick our arses for it and tell us to get out of it. Then Big Ned, the hard man of the street, would come along and get a load of fish and chips, and say 'come in, boys', and get us fish suppers, too, without having to pay for any of it. So we learned who got respect." By the time Jimmy was eight, he'd already perfected a James Cagney kind of walk. It was just a short step from there to breaking into shops, doing in chewing gum machines, then stabbing a boy in the face with a butcher's knife during his first gang fight.

I am quite keen to know what it feels like to knife somebody. How did you feel afterwards, Jimmy? "I just felt relieved it wasn't me who copped it. All my mates were saying: 'Brilliant, you sorted him out.' But then someone else would come up and say that's fucking nothing, you only scratched him. So the stakes intensified the whole time."

Did you ever think you were doing something morally wrong? "You never thought about whether it was the right way to live or the right thing to do. If you've got nothing, then being a great thief or great fighter is something. I remember when I was in solitary in prison, this guy calling out: Jimmy, brilliant headline in the Express today. You're Scotland's most violent

Continued on page 8

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INSIDE

Letters 2
Leaders and comment 3-5
Obituaries 6-7
Features 8-9

Arts 10
On Air 11
Network 12-13
Listings 15-16

Satellite TV 17
Radio 17
Games 17
Today's TV 18

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Schools should be interfering more to protect children

THE SAFE return to their parents of Lisa Hoodless and Charlene Lunn is a cause for some relief; too many such stories have ended in tragedy far greater than the captivity these 10-year-old girls had to endure. Now the challenge must be to help make sure that such abductions are more difficult in the future.

The girls' school never informed the parents that their children had not appeared; only when Lisa's mother arrived at the school to pick up her daughter was the alarm raised. This will shock and alarm all those who believed that schools were in loco parentis while children were under their supervision. Schools have a duty of care to the children they educate, and the parents for whom they stand in during the day, meaning that teachers should inform those responsible if children do not turn up for school in the morning.

Of course, that places an opposite duty on parents to inform the school if their children will not be attending, because of illness or family commitments. But empty seats in the classroom without a good reason means something has gone wrong: either illness, or truancy, or worse. Parents should be contacted to make sure that the children are safe.

Schools will point out that they do not have the resources, either in money or staff, to do this; if that is true, the extra money must be provided. The initiatives to be presented today by David Blunkett, Secretary of State for Education, will contain extra pledges. Parents are to be encouraged to band together to take turns in escorting children to and from school; there is to be more education for children in the dangers they can face, whether from predatory strangers or traffic.

These are all sensible measures. The idea that children cannot walk the streets in relative safety should not be allowed to gain hold in parents' minds - abductions like that of Charlene and Lisa are extremely rare. It is just that, with a little common sense, they could perhaps be made even more rare.

This is not just an issue of child safety. Reducing truancy remains a key Government aim, with more money provided just last week for initiatives to do just that. As Estelle Morris, the Schools Standards Minister, has pointed out, increased vigilance on the part of teachers could pay for itself by effecting a decline in those children lost to education altogether.

We will look to see whether the extra money proves enough. If it does, then schools can fulfil a new and expanded role: protecting children outside the school, as well as inside. British schools have traditionally fought shy of "interfering" once their pupils are off the grounds. Now that can, and must, change.



The damaging effect of ministers' junkets

THE CONTROVERSY over "junkets" - a word, like "sleaze", which seems to have been specifically invented to wound a government - will not go away. The allegation that Geoff Hoon, Minister of State in the Lord Chancellor's Department, took a £7,000 transatlantic round-trip with a civil servant is one more example. This case fits into the picture the Government's detractors draw of irresponsible ministers, jetting around and wasting taxpayers' money.

We have seen a few stories that reinforce this impression over the last few weeks. Jack Cunningham's much-publicised trips on Concorde being the most famous example. It is no wonder that voters are beginning to feel that New Labour's promise to banish such behaviour from public life is wearing thin. These are not the first exam-

ples of that party's dangerous love affair with the lifestyles of the rich and famous, but they should be the last.

Mr Blair explicitly warned his Ministers when they came to power that they should not covet the trappings of office above their opportunity to reshape Britain. It seems he has been ignored. Now he needs to regain his grip on those who are ignoring his injunction, rather than simply attempt to strangle the story by preventing "leaks" to the press. He himself has behaved with exemplary restraint, refusing to draw all of his salary and insisting that other ministers follow suit.

No one wishes Britain's representatives while abroad to arrive shabby and tired, or to appear showily puritanical in their choice of transport. If ministers are in a hurry, then they should take the fastest route, including Concorde if need be. But voters need to be assured that ministerial discretion is not abused in this matter. New Labour, emerging from its worst period in office, can ill-afford creating the impression of high-living waste.

The whole Government has been done a great deal of harm by ministerial opulence. The Lord Chancellor showed great maladroitness over the expensive refurbishment of his official chambers; Mr Cunningham's own choice of furniture seems rather extravagant for a Cabinet Office Minister. Ministers may regard their plans to pare down on bureaucratic spending by £300m as more important than the "froth" of travel and furniture budgets, but they should remember that appearances can matter just as much as such "real" policies.

New Labour came to power promising a new kind of politics. It was able, with public goodwill, to survive a first wave of scandals. The Bernie Ecclestone affair, and "lobbygate", in which lobbyists were seen to be selling access to ministers, passed without a ripple in the opinion polls. Perhaps some in the Government became less cautious, as their fear of censure declined. If so, they should be chastened. If they are not, the Prime Minister should ensure their compliance with more sober standards of behaviour.

What this Government needs is a whole lot more of Tony's cronies

SINCE THE election, one Tory attack on the government has hit home. Under the two dreaded words "Tony's cronies" and ministers shiver, Tories cheer, and journalists exchange knowing nods. To the left of us, to the right of us and down the middle Tony's mates are meant to be everywhere.

In which case what is Lord Wakeham doing in charge of the Royal Commission on Lords Reform? And while we are about it, how is the presence of David Mellor on the Football Task Force explained? Other beneficiaries of government patronage include Michael Heseltine, Chris Patten and John Gummer. It will not be long before Ken Clarke is offered a tempting role, no doubt related to Europe. None of these people are Tony's mates, although he probably prefers their company to some in his own party.

The soundbite "Tony's cronies" is not merely an exaggeration of the reality, it conveys the precise opposite of what is really happening. At the heart of the Government, there are very few people with substantial influence. Their names are repeated with monotonous frequency, but none of them are cronies. Neither a chancellor nor a press secretary who has served for more than four years fit that description. Outside the inner circle, the stress is on inclusiveness. It was Margaret Thatcher who asked whether a beneficiary of her patronage was "one of us". Blair is just as likely to ask whether he or she was a moderate Tory before offering a job.

The appointment of Lord Wakeham to run the commission on the Lords was a very clever move. Politics is part-

ly a game of chess. Giving Wakeham such a sensitive task was the equivalent of putting Hague in check, with checkmate only a few moves away.

Hague's dilemma was all too clearly illustrated last Wednesday when, after all the sound and fury he had generated over Lords reform, he did not question Blair on the issue at Prime Minister's Question Time. On BBC's *Breakfast with Frost* programme yesterday he was sheepish on the subject, revealing that Lord Wakeham had apologised for not letting him know in advance of his appointment. Apparently the process had happened so quickly Wakeham had no time to inform his leader. Make of that excuse what you will.

Wakeham's appointment - obscured initially by the Ashdown retirement, which was announced an hour later - is bizarre. The Tories are in opposition for the first time in 18 years, but one of them is now in charge of the next stage of Lords reform. When I raised this with a couple of Blairite peers over the weekend they insisted this was not a problem. Gerald Kaufman was also on the commission, they pointed out.

"Gerald's a good fixer", as one of them put it. He certainly is, as anyone who watched him reshape Labour's unilateralist defence policy in opposition would testify. But what happens if Wakeham, not known as one of life's radicals, flexes his conservative muscles, as he is perfectly entitled to do? For the Government he is a convenient pawn in a game of chess, but he might seize his opportunity and deliver proposals that please his own party



STEVE RICHARDS
Labour's generosity to senior Tories exposes a lack of confidence in the Government

more than the one which is meant to be in power.

There is a tendency with this government to make a great song and dance over symbolic appointments and then react with some dismay when the person appointed treats the actual task with some seriousness. Ask Frank Field, whose appointment as Social Security minister was listed by the Government as one of its outstanding achievements in its first hundred days celebration. When Field actually attempted to implement the ideas his appointment was meant to symbolise, he was sacked. Lord Jenkins' appointment to chair a commission on electoral reform was announced to a similar fanfare of trumpets. The problems began when he had the cheek to actually produce some proposals. They are gathering

dust, and will be submerged by many more layers of dust before they are put to the voters in a referendum.

But it is the appointment of senior Tories to important posts which has been an especially distinctive characteristic of the Government. "Big tent government", as Americans call it, has obvious advantages. Hague is styled on several fronts. Seemingly wherever he turns to attack, a Tory lurks in the bushes. What about the Millennium Dome? Speak to Michael Heseltine about that. Reservations about policing in Northern Ireland? Chris Patten is the man you should address. As for that ill-thought-out Lords Reform? Lord Wakeham is in charge of that.

Rightly Tony Blair is keen, too, to encourage gently the split between the moderate Tories and the Eurosceptic right-wingers currently in charge of their party. I can appreciate the tactics. It is like watching a top premier side outmanoeuvre opposition from a lower division. I understand the bold bigger picture, also, in which some of the tribalism in politics is broken down to the long-term disadvantage of the right wing Tory party.

But the generosity to senior Tories exposes also a lack of confidence in the Government. Conservative governments never reciprocate, while the Blair Government is accelerating a trend which other Labour administrations began. Harold Wilson appointed the Conservative Lord Hill to become chairman of the BBC and offered several of his business associates, not necessarily Labour supporters, important posts. What a contrast to the Thatcherite approach

where local government was dismantled to be replaced by quangos often chaired by "one of us" and where the BBC would cower in a thousand years have been placed under the control of a Labour supporter.

"We are still having to prove we are up to the job" is how one senior cabinet minister put it to me. He was referring to the need to convince officials in Whitehall, as well as the electorate, that after virtually no experience of government the ministers could administer competently.

Perhaps that explains why a government with the biggest majority since the war is so bothered by the Tories that it spends much time outmanoeuvring them, partly by picking off its elder statesmen. Labour has been in opposition for so long that it still cannot fully believe it has finally made it into government. It looks to those natural men of government, Heseltine, Wakeham, Patten and co, to give it some weight.

When the Tories placed their friends in positions of power, the response in the media was "Good old Maggie, she is a strong leader who knows where she is going." There was no jibe about "Maggie's mates" to compete with "Tony's cronies". In spite of the near fatal collapse of the Tories and Labour's landslide win, it is the beleaguered opposition which is still seen as the natural party of government. We need more of Tony's cronies in positions of power if that perception is to change.

Steve Richards is Political Editor of the *New Statesman*.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Are you suggesting that I should swim back?"
Geoff Hoon,
Minister in the Lord Chancellor's office,
defending his Concorde flight to America

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"Everything you can imagine is real."
Pablo Picasso,
Spanish artist

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THE ENTIRE system of selecting Olympic cities should be rigorously reformed. Finally, the preening, posturing president must go. He will not depart without a struggle; indeed, he will have to prise his fingers from the door handle of the Chateau de Vidy in Lausanne. But if the movement is ever to reclaim its dignity and integrity, Juan Antonio Samaranch must depart before the week is done. (Patrick Collins) *Sunday Mail*

THE REVELATIONS of widespread corruption over the selection of Salt Lake City for the next winter games have not only brought disgrace upon individuals. They have tainted the entire Olympic committee. Mr Samaranch cannot be excused. The network of bribery exposed by the Dick Pound report stretches far beyond Salt Lake City - to Sydney, Malaysia, and Japan. The common factor in it all, as International Olympic Committee President, has

MONITOR

ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD
The Sunday papers comment on corruption in the International Olympic Committee

been Mr Samaranch. Accordingly, his immediate removal from office must be the first move to the complete reform of the IOC. *News of the World*

SAMARANCH SHOULD have been collecting his pension for a long time. But four years ago he engineered a vote of the IOC that raised the retirement age from 75 to 80. At the time, he

thought it would ensure he would remain Lord of the Rings into the next millennium. As the current scandal continues to unfold, his grip on power is loosened a little each day. How he must now wish he had stood down gracefully when he had the chance. *Duncan Mackay* *The Observer*

MR SAMARANCH'S lifestyle makes "Junket Jack" Cunningham look like an amateur. In

Ngano, Samaranch was put up in a lavish hotel suite at a cost of £50,000. In Seoul, he stayed in the Shilla Hotel's presidential suite at £2,400 a night. When lowlier IOC members see the perks enjoyed by their president, they naturally want a slice of the action. Mr Samaranch heads a corrupt organisation and has lived high on the bug for too long. To restore some honour to the Olympic ideal, he should resign today. *Sunday Times*

PANDORA

A "CABINET" crisis has been caused by the break-up of Bob McCartney's UK Unionist Party. Cedric Wilson, former deputy leader of the UKUP, and now leading light of the new Northern Ireland Unionist Party, was recently horrified to discover that a filing cabinet containing items belonging to him, had been forcibly broken into and documents removed. The discovery, made when he returned to the UKUP office at the Northern Ireland Assembly building to pick up said items, was duly reported to the Royal Ulster Constabulary. The RUC told Pandora that Bob McCartney was unable to retrieve some of his own papers from the cabinet and that a member of his staff had authorised a locksmith to force it open. Cedric Wilson was terse about his side of the story because of the RUC investigation. However, an RUC spokesman told Pandora that criminal damage was being ruled out and wearily added: "If anyone can get any sense out of the politicians over here, they're a better man than I am."

SIMON HUGHES, a front-runner in the race to succeed the retiring Lib Dem leader, Paddy Ashdown, has been the victim of one of the cheekiest Parliamentary attacks in years. When the subject of what would happen if the election of the London mayor ended in a tie cropped up in a Commons debate last Wednesday, Labour MP Tony McNulty suggested that he would rather draw lots than leave the decision to the elected members of the new London Assembly. McNulty was then asked: "Would he prefer the drawing of lots or the tossing of a coin? In other words is he a drawer of lots or a tosser?" He answered thus: "That remark was preferable to all the interventions that I have just received from the honourable Member for Southwark North and Bermondsey [Hughes], who... if I had to put money on it, does not draw lots."

WILL GEORGE Benson became sick of hearing his tribute to Princess Diana and Dodi Fayed, as Elton John admits that he is tired of hearing his tribute record to Diana, Goodbye English Rose? This week Benson's tribute CD and video, My

Father, My Son I Will Keep You in My Heart, are out on general release. Mohammed al Fayed commissioned soul singer Benson to write the tribute after they met at Harrods in July of last year. Benson, who has lost three sons of his own, was quoted as saying that the result was a "soupy song". Is it a recipe the public will swallow second time around?

WHATEVER HAPPENS to President Clinton, the Republicans have got what they wanted, according to one learned academic who has contacted Pandora. "Republicans have been saying that they want to trip Clinton up, by impeaching him. That is exactly what they have done. The word impeachment means 'a tripping up, or putting a foot in the way,' explains the professor, who cites the 19th century etymologist, Walter W Skeat, as his source. Our learned friend adds: "The word comes from the Latin *impedimentum* where one is impeded from action." Thus making the meaning of impeachment as pertinent for Hillary Clinton as it is for Republicans.

WOULD HOLLYWOOD actress Michelle Pfeiffer (pictured) endorse the decision to ban gratuitous sex scenes on TV, as has been taken in Britain by the Broadcasting Standards Council? Pfeiffer certainly has some reservations about scenes of an erotic nature, telling TV Gen magazine this week that: "I've avoided nudity like the plague and the fact is I find nudity in films distracting." In her latest film, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Michelle has made self-censorship a big issue. "The truth is my whole performance boils down to keeping my butt covered in a flimsy fairy costume. I kept asking the cameraman: 'Did you see my butt? Could you see my rear end?'"

THE CHANCELLOR's new press aide, Fiona Hamilton, can thank the Treasury for helping keep her profile low. Last week's Treasury press release announcing her new job - she says she won't be Charlie Whelan "in a skirt" - only mentions her name in the fourth line of the second of the Notes for Editors. Pandora assumes this an example of "static", rather than "spin".



The Republicans have already lost



ANDREW MARSHALL

What the impeachment of Clinton has shown is how uninged the Republican Party has become

IT LOOKS as if, after 12 long months, the greatest show on earth - though maybe not the trial of the century - is drawing to a close. As Dale Bumpers, the former Arkansas Senator, spoke on Thursday, there was a strange feeling in Washington, as though a wind were blowing through the city, or a monsoon were breaking. The sense of an impending end was palpable; the new age of After Monica. Maybe not today, or this week, but soon, the impeachment trial of Bill Clinton will come to an end, either with dismissal or his acquittal.

It has been a bizarre year: one of fascination and compulsion at times; of deep tedium and perplexity at others. But the lasting question, and the least satisfying element of the whole thing is: what is it all about? What is it all for?

For the President's supporters, it is a right-wing conspiracy, a partisan attempt to bring down a great man and reverse the electorate's choice. For his opponents, it is about the rule of law, the Constitution and the crimes of a man who should have resigned months ago if he had any honour. These compet-

ing claims just do not meet in the middle in any way. They are what social scientists call incommensurable: they reflect two different world views and sets of moral, political and legal assumptions that just don't match up.

One way of looking at the significance of the whole affair is just this: that what has happened is a visible manifestation of the great kul-

turkamp between two American value systems, the famous "Culture Wars". This argument holds that since the Sixties, the left-leaning, liberal, secular, modernising tide in America has competed against the traditional, religious, conservative view. Clinton clearly represents the former for most people, while the other side has been led by people like Kenneth Starr, Henry Hyde and Trent Lott, unbending advocates of law and morality (in public, at least).

The right will argue that After Monica, chaos is come again, and the dominance of White Anglo-Saxon Protestant ways is over. This is over-egging it. Free love is unlikely to break out in the streets of middle America. Cannabis will not be smoked in public buildings (nothing, in fact, will be smoked in public buildings, bars or restaurants below a certain size, for the foreseeable future). The two main candidates for high office in 2000 will most likely be two impeccable Wasps: George Walker Bush and Albert Gore.

It takes a bit of stretching to see the events of the last year as constituting a Rubicon. The nation as

a whole has been far from riveted. But to some extent, that is the point. For at least two decades, the right - disproportionately Southern and Western, white and Baptist - has been politically dominant, whatever was going on in the streets of America. Conservatives began their ascent in the Sixties, as the white majority rejected what it saw as the Democrats' shift to the left. They had money, ideology and political dominance on their side. Although the nation changed, Washington, to a remarkable degree, did not.

The hold that the conservative right had on political debate has been broken, in the last year, by its inept handling of the debates in Congress, by the internal wars within the Republican Party, and by its appalling grasp of public opinion. In many ways, the conflict has looked rather like the depiction of the English Civil War in 1666 *And All That*: the Clintonites, like the Cavaliers, are Wrong but Romantic, whereas the Republicans are Right but Repulsive.

I do not think that the impeachment of Bill Clinton is the culminating battle of a great social shift

in the US and the end of the fight over values; I think it is the beginning of another political change: the rewriting of the Republican Party, which has come badly unbinged. The party represents a shard of white, Southern, conservative opinion that is a minority in America, and has been for decades. If the Republicans identify that, and that alone, with righteousness, values and morality, it will make a historic mistake. If there has been a culture war for the last year, it has been mainly because the Republicans have forced one - and they have lost. They cannot blame the moral malaise or the Sixties for that - they can only blame themselves.

Most Americans find themselves somewhere in between the two great world views, and are not ready to be dragged into a war. To the astonishment of the pollsters and politicians, they express views of some complexity instead of stark ideological polarisation, as they might have done 20 years ago. And so they have turned off, which is what, in a few weeks, we shall all be able to do - with some relief, but a little nostalgia.

I only want to genuflect to genuine accomplishment



ANDREAS WHITTAM SMITH

Am I being confronted by some crony who's been elevated to the House of Lords for favours given?

I AM standing around at a drinks party and my host kindly introduces me to Lord and Lady X. Even now, in the final year of the second millennium, their titles are inclined to make one a bit more respectful than if one had been introduced to Mr and Mrs Y. My mind begins to whirl and grate like a badly functioning computer, trying to find the appropriate category for the Xs. I am searching my memory to establish whether there is any reason at all why this couple should be regarded with admiration.

I ask myself, first of all, whether I am talking to a hereditary peer or a life peer. No problems with the latter: life peers have done something. But I shall be cross with myself if it is the former and regret my instinctive genuflection.

The easiest way through my defences is if my fellow guest bears an historic title. The aura of the first duke, or first baron, extends to their descendants. Who could meet, say, the present Duke of Wellington without wondering about his famous ancestor. The titles with the least reverberation in my imagination are those of the royal dukes, Edinburgh, York, Kent and Gloucester, all alike meaningless to me.

And even if I recall that Lord X is a life peer, my carping mind may still not be quite satisfied. For I shall wonder whether I am confronted by someone who has been rewarded with elevation to the House of Lords solely for having done favours for one of the political parties - a crony of some kind. I wish to bow only to genuine achievement.

Until now our absurd system of lords and ladies has been part of the scenery, made venerable by age. I have been frequently to the House of Lords recently to meet peers, some of them hereditary, who take an interest in film and video classi-

fication. Charmingly and disarmingly the fifth earl types, when you find them in their lair, are often hesitant and self-deprecatory, even though, in the corridors, dining rooms and bars you hear a lot of "my lords". These ones are engaged in public service. I respect them, although afterwards I reflect how strange it is that Lord So-and-So should have this particular opportunity simply because an ancestor was, for whatever reason, ennobled.

I make these reflections in light of the Government's proposals to reform the House of Lords by removing the hereditary element. For the White Paper states that the plans will not affect the peerage itself and that hereditary peers will retain their titles and their status. Thus, as so frequently occurs, we are to change the inner workings of the system without adjusting the outward form.

For example, it is 150 years or more since the sovereign ceased to have a political role and became

truly a constitutional monarch. Yet the elaborate paraphernalia of the Queen's speech has been maintained unchanged until this year, when the Lord Chancellor was asked to remove himself from the Queen's presence without having to walk backwards.

It is even longer since men commonly wore wigs in public, yet they must still be used by counsel and judges - males and females - in the law courts. When I took my degree at an ancient university, the proceedings were conducted in Latin, even though scholarly use of the language came to an end during the 16th century.

For the most part, this maintenance of ceremony is satisfying and imparts a sense of continuity with the past. I was pleased to utter two words in Latin when I knelt in front of the vice-chancellor. The pleasures that the redundant forms provide are like the joys of exploring an old building or clambering about a ruined castle. Moreover there can be clear political benefit in keeping change below the surface. It avoids vindictiveness. There is no loss of face, nor is there anything abrupt about it; life seems to go on, at least for the time being, much as before. It is one of the reasons why we generally avoid revolutions on this island.

Nonetheless in this matter, I think the Government's proposals as they stand are too timid. On the present plans, when reform of the House of Lords is completed, the purely social distinctions will remain. When foreigners observe that British society is obsessed with class, I often wonder what is meant. But this is one aspect they surely have in mind. The undue reverence we give to people with hereditary titles is a noxious thing. It is demeaning. It is unhealthy. I could do without it. I wish it wasn't a feature of British life.



British obsession with class on display at Royal Ascot AP

There are two ways of making progress in this matter. The more radical measure would be to remove the legal status of the peerage. This would mean that the Duke of Devonshire would receive a tax form addressed to Mr Cavendish - Mr Andrew Cavendish. Likewise the Duke of Marlborough would receive his summons to sit on a jury addressed as Mr John Spencer-Churchill and his elder son, at present entitled the Marquis of Blandford, would be known as Mr Charles Spencer-Churchill, and in turn his son, the young Earl of Sunderland, would be referred to as Mr George Spencer-Churchill when he grows up.

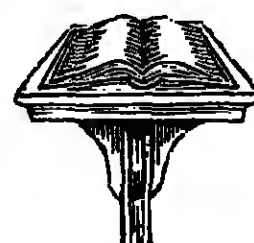
I know that, even with the legal basis for the use of titles removed, they would still be widely used. *Burkes Peerage* wouldn't go out of business; however, nor it would be a subversive publication representing a vanished Britain rather than the establishment.

Instead of legislation to extinguish

the peerage, however, I prefer the more softly-softer approach, which would be to change the name of the upper house and of its members. Let us say the revising chamber became a senate and its members senators. It is likely that they would be addressed as "senator" in social settings, just as officers of the armed forces are referred to as admiral or general. We would never say at a party "let me introduce you to Mr X" when the gentleman was a serving admiral; we would use his official rank. So it might be with senators, or whatever title was chosen.

To be a "senator" would be to be something - as it is to be a senior officer. By contrast, lords and ladies would at last become anachronisms and the continued insistence on the use of their titles would come to be seen as a bit pompous, or somewhat fuddy-duddy. And at a party, I could look forward to being introduced to Senator and Mrs X and being suitably impressed.

Labour's pop culture project is doomed



PODIUM

BRYAN APPLEYARD
From a speech by the cultural critic to the Social Market Foundation on the limits of 'new' Britain

THIS MAY seem like a mad thing to say but, without Schubert and Tizian, nothing makes sense. Obviously you could substitute any number of other names, or things, or even institutions, but the point would remain the same. Human culture is defined by and exists in relation to certain works. Those works may seem arbitrary, but, in fact, they are not. They are not arbitrary because they are, above all, transmissible.

I am fairly confident that any human being who ever lived could be brought to an understanding of Schubert. I am even more confident that the knowledge of Schubert - or even the mere fact of his existence - is a way of assessing the world in which we find ourselves. Put more generally: the idea of a history of attainment - of great works - is essential to our ability to maintain a viable civilisation. Without it, we may as well abandon ourselves to a scientific and technocratic - and, therefore, unenlightened - future.

Clearly the idea of great works is at odds with the idea that we are all artists, and

anything can be art. It is, therefore, at odds with pop culture as an ideology.

Although, as I have indicated, great works may emerge from pop culture, they will only do so by default. The culture itself - as a culture - is inimical to the idea of the masterpiece, because that idea carries overtones of anti-spontaneity.

It also creates problems for the complex metaphysics of equality. Plainly, if I rate masterpieces as highly as I do, then I am, fundamentally, not equal to Schubert. This does not trouble me too much, as I am grateful that Schubert is there to give me a glimpse of something higher and better than I could ever be.

But it does, necessarily, trouble those who take an excessively fundamentalist view of equality. And such people are no longer, I believe, in a minority. A hyper-individualised society which treats all experiences as equal will inevitably deny the possibility of any superior experience - such as that felt in the presence of a masterpiece.

This idea appears in the insistence that current pop forms are exactly the same as

earlier forms generally regarded as high art. It is routine these days to hear this view expressed in such forms as: "If Dickens were alive today he would write soap operas." Or: "Mozart could have made a fortune out of musicals." Neither is likely to be true, but both are consoling to a certain ultra-democratic vanity.

But, for New Labour, the acceptance of his view means that the newness of their pro-

ject is doomed from the start. For, remember, the whole point of their "Third Way" was to soften the effects of the free market on the culture. But this is precisely what is made impossible by their adoration of pop culture.

For pop culture now is the globalised free market in its most raw and rampant form. Michael Jackson, until his fall from grace, was a front for the marketing of Pepsi-Cola. And every major rock tour now arrives bedecked with sponsorship. Overwhelmingly, what is being sold - the drinks, the clothes, the software, the hamburgers, the whole lifestyle - is American-made. It is the décor and the cash flow of the global market place.

New Labour thus finds itself promoting that to which it should be most profoundly opposed. And it does so because, apparently, it can see no alternative. "The People" - to whom Blair frequently and cynically appeals - must appear to have the last word. And, as far as culture is concerned, that last word is pop.

The deep problem here is that it has become difficult, if not impossible, to separate the

concepts of democracy and the market. Buying something has become a vote more powerful and more meaningful than any voting slip inserted into a ballot box.

As conventional democracy declines and electoral turnouts fall, so market democracy triumphs by basing itself on the statistics of millions of buying decisions. Our political identity becomes co-extensive with our consumption patterns, because nobody troubles to make the distinction between the selfishness of material desire and the generosity of a free and rationally responsible choice.

In short, the New Labour solution is no solution at all, it merely sugars the pill of the cultural disruptions of the global market.

And it is certainly reductive and opposed to the idea of freedom. For it treats people as marketing statistics and it accepts the persuasive power of the market. If we accept this idea, then we reduce ourselves to our buying decisions. The next campaign for Nike or Coca-Cola will replace the Party Political Broadcast as the true political reality.

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Children of the revolution



NATASHA WALTER

It's odd when the way to acceptance among young revolutionaries is by talking about your father

"WHAT DO you want to be when you grow up?" says one little girl to another. "I want to be normal," says the other.

The little girls are the heroines of *Hideous Kinky*, the tale by Esther Freud that's based on her own childhood experiences of wandering around Morocco with her hippie mother. The book has just been turned into a film, and the time is right. The children of rebellious, Sixties parents are grown up now, they might have children of their own, and they're thinking again about their parents' legacy.

Despite that exchange about being normal, which appears in the film and sounds like an edgey criticism of the mother's lifestyle, one of the best things about *Hideous Kinky*, the novel, is that Esther Freud never judges the mother. She is a glorious, larger than life figure; and, with the benefit of adult understanding, Esther Freud goes back and ferrets out the riches of living with a parent who wanted to live well and honestly and courageously – even if not always conventionally. At a time when parents are under more scrutiny than ever before, it's good to remember that it's certainly not always the most conventional parents who do the best by their children.

But it's a complicated business, growing up with parents who are more rebellious than you are. Many people of my generation grew up wondering if we could ever wholly measure up to our parents' sense of adventure and possibility.

The usual thrust of picaresque biography and fiction is the path of the child brought up in a stifling, conventional household finding a way out into the larger world, a world full of adventure and life. But if your parents were hippies, or anarchists, or peace protesters, that movement can never be clear-cut. You can watch *Rebel Without a Cause* or you can read *The Clergyman's Daughter*, but you know that those will never be your stories.

Children of rebellious parents can, of course, rebel the other way, and try to shock their parents by wearing a suit, voting Tory or going out with a policeman. That's not surprising. Children don't want to feel they're just clones of their par-



Kate Winslet in 'Hideous Kinky', the film adaptation of Esther Freud's novel, based on her childhood wanderings with her mother on the hippy trail

ents, especially when they're teenagers. For instance, if your parents have freely admitted to taking drugs or used them in front of you, you don't feel so curious and excited about drugs yourself. "It's so boring, it's what your parents do," said one friend of mine who resolutely refused to smoke cannabis, even when offered it by his mother.

Others, used to their parents wandering around barefoot and scruffy, suddenly become very conventional dressers – though how much of that is rebellion, and how much is fashion, is hard to say. I remember when a woman of about my own age, the editor of a national newspaper supplement, was talking to me about going barefoot. "My mother used to go barefoot all the time," she said to me. "So did mine," I said. And then we both looked at each other, in our conventional dresses and shoes and tights, and started laughing. "We look like this because of our mothers," she said.

The tension between Sixties

parents and their children is also, momentarily, about politics. Growing up with parents who took their children on Aldermaston marches before they could walk, as mine did, you're never going to feel as though you discovered left politics for yourself. I remember going to meetings of that crazy anarchist group, Class War, for a few weeks one summer. They looked at me rather askance, as well they might, until I told them who my father was. "Nick Walter's all right," they allowed. It's rather odd when the only way you can gain acceptance in a group of young revolutionaries is by talking about your father. That put me off student politics and protests for a bit, just as the fact that *Spare Rib* was a magazine my mother read made me turn away from conscious feminism for a time in my teens.

But those sorts of reactions are usually short-lived. It's just too much of a truism to say that the natural movement of the child of rebellious parents is to become besotted and conservative. Michael

Portillo seemed to embody that truism in his recent television programme, where the Tory chauvinist returned to the land of his Communist, idealistic fathers. The French and Saunders sketch that became the seed for *Absolutely Fabulous* simply poked fun at the tensions between Edina, the aging hippie, and her tight-lipped, censorious daughter, Saffy.

In *Big Women*, her novel and television script about British feminism, Fay Weldon subscribes to that caricature by making the daughter of the most idealistic feminist a hard-faced businesswoman in spindly heels and black suits – funnily enough, also called Saffron – who takes over a feminist publishing house and sells it out to the highest bidder. That image of a break, a fissure, between the rebellious parent and the conventional child is the cliché of the age.

But it is only a cliché. Bella and Esther Freud did not, in the end, become "normal", whatever that means – they didn't end up working

nine to five for a jowly boss or believing in what the *Daily Mail* says – but followed their own ideas in design and writing in their own individual ways. And, in the end, children often return to the politics of their parents, with a renewed interest in making it work for a different environment and generation.

Rather than wholesale backdash, I think children of rebellious parents can sometimes grow up with a certain sense of inadequacy. They hear a lot about the parties and protests of yesteryear, and for a time it can feel difficult for them to own their own youth and their own politics. And that sense of inadequacy is hardly surprising.

After all, my parents' generation, throughout Europe and the United States, changed the world. Perhaps they didn't change it in the ways they wanted to – they didn't ban the bomb, which was my own parents' overriding concern. They didn't establish an anarchist Utopia, which was something my father was pretty keen on; or see women and

men becoming equal in every way, which my mother would have liked. But their generation did change the world; they made it much more irreverent, less respectful of authority; they created a society that was more tolerant of drugs and sexual freedom, and eager for race and sex equality. They created a revolution in everyday life.

But once they get over that feeling of inadequacy, the children of rebellious parents can feel a sense of optimism. They don't have to rebel in the same ways, partly because some battles have now been won. And the fact that some battles are won makes them realise that nothing stands still, and that they can build on the changes that the previous generation wrought.

The movement of generations may be complicated by each individual story, but I think a sense of continuity and development is surely both more useful and more accurate than the cliché of sulky Saffron, pouring scorn on her parents' ideals.

RIGHT OF REPLY

ALEXANDER GARDINER



The producer of 'Jonathan Dimbleby' puts the case for political interviews on Sunday television

DAVID AARONOVITCH'S article on the death of the political interview smacks of surrender. Of course "press release" television, such as Sir David Frost's breakfast programme, is highly successful at getting politicians on for a cosy chat. Their purpose is to get the headline, be clipped on the day's news and offer an alternative avenue for the ministerial announcement. But to suggest that the rest of us pack our bags is a betrayal of the viewer and of the political process.

Political television has grown up from the days when David Aaronovitch was a "cub researcher" on the groundbreaking *Weekend World*. There is still soundbite television and chin-wags on the Sunday morning sofa, but also the more in-depth forensic interviews, done so successfully by Jonathan Dimbleby.

Each weekend, television's most incisive interviewer grills a politician for 20 minutes on the big issues before turning them over for quizzing by an audience of 100 voters. This makes for intellectually engaging viewing, relevant to the lives of the audience rather than gossipers in the inner loop of Westminster.

Of course, we would love the power to subpoena politicians when they are in trouble. We know they can always opt for the easier get-out, but the public are wise to this. Jonathan Dimbleby's interview with Conservative Trade Secretary Ian Lang on the publication of the Scott Report was one of the toughest I have seen – yet the minister earned credit with the audience for engaging with difficult questions, rather than ducking them.

There is hardly a root rank politician who hasn't been on *Jonathan Dimbleby* – and returned for another go. It may be more of a challenge, but most have the confidence to face such a cross-examination.

Unremembered acts of kindness

JONATHAN SWIFT once remarked that Ireland has enough religion to make its citizens hate, but not enough to make them love one another. Others have put it differently. "Out of Ireland I come," Great hatred, little room/ Maimed me from the start/ I carry from my mother's womb/ A fanatic's heart," wrote Yeats. Shaw claimed that if you "put two Irishmen in a room," you would "always be able to persuade one to roast the other on a spit".

That a gospel of love can so easily be used to legitimise political injustice or social enmity is the paradox which has torn the tattered canvas of Irish history into shreds. Familiar though we are with the biblical analogy of motives and beams, the practice of Christianity in Northern Ireland – as



MONDAY BOOK

ANTI-CATHOLICISM IN NORTHERN IRELAND 1600-1998:
THE MOTE AND THE BEAM

BY JOHN D BREWER WITH GARETH HIGGINS, MACMILLAN PRESS, £16.99

often perceived from mainland Britain – is something we are often tempted to condemn.

John D Brewer's excellent study on the sociological implications of four centuries of anti-Catholicism in Ireland does, however, remind the English of their historical responsibility. Similar sentiments have forged our constitutional settlement (the impossibility of a Catholic monarch, despite the claim of blood), our cultural mythology

(burning the Guy on 5 November), and our national identity. Indeed, at the close of the 19th century, Britain proudly stood for three things: Protestantism, free trade and Empire. And God – as the old joke goes – was an Englishman. Surely acknowledgement of our own impaired vision is necessary before attempting to correct that of others.

Professor Brewer realises this, in the spirit of the mote and the beam. It is as a (Protestant) "Christian sociologist" that he writes. Not denying the existence of anti-Protestantism, Brewer suggests persuasively that it has never "permeated the social and cultural structures of Northern Ireland so systematically".

His purpose is to challenge a community's perception of itself, and thereby of their neighbours, not simply to repeat the familiar two-sided tragedy. As such, it is a partisan book – necessarily so, as it confronts ideological preconceptions on their own terms. Yet the work is infused throughout by a reticence to judge, and a firm view on the past as a prologue to future possibility rather than a window on suffered wrong.

In the nervous climate of Northern Ireland's new start in 1999, such research is refreshing. Her prophets have usually been the Paisleys, unable to see the future but "through the prism of the past" and little more than the second-hand salesmen of historical myth.

Brewer knows the same history, but reads it with an understanding that the perpetuation of "socio-ethnic trib-

alism" offers no future. He glances back the better to look forward.

The result is a glimpse at "unremembered" segments of Ulster history, in which are found alternative voices to those of violence or prejudice. Those of the leaders of the Belfast dock strike in 1907, for example, in which dockers found common cause "not as Catholics or Protestants, as Nationalists or Unionists, but as Belfast men and workers".

My Ulster grandfather, the staunchly Protestant auctioneer of the little town of Rathfriland in Co Down, gave shelter to Catholics in the bloody "troubles" of 1918-20 on the basis of similar sentiments. Later they underpinned the determination of Terence O'Neill, a family friend and former Unionist Prime Minister, to "break the chains of ancient hatreds" and embrace a pluralist politics. In 1965, the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church begged "forgiveness for any attitudes and actions towards our Roman Catholic fellow countrymen which have been unworthy of our calling as followers of Jesus Christ".

The picture which emerges is of a different Northern Ireland than that of Drumcree, and a different Christianity than that of Free Presbyterianism. It offers the possibility of a new future led by the likes of Trimble and Hume. What this future does rely on, however, is little less than the transformation of identity: the transcendence of social boundaries constructed along the lines of 16th-century theological differences.

Four hundred years of opposition



Leaders like David Trimble are part of a new future for Ulster

have left Unionists feeling under siege from the nationalist community within the Republic to the south, and abandoned by the British they have sought to defend. The twin fears of threat and isolation, legitimised by a divine mandate, prove resilient foes. If ever there was a time for the resurgence of social and political liberalism within Ulster, it is now.

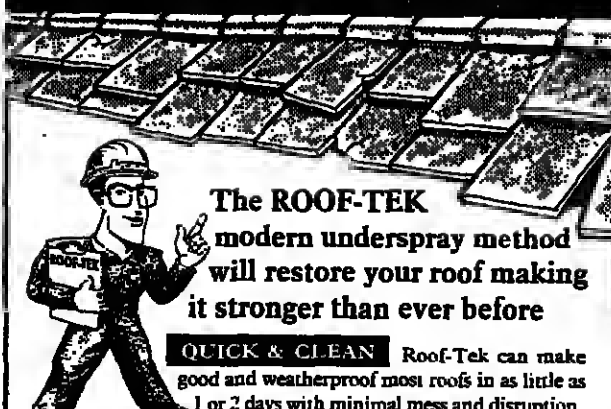
Last year was unlike any other in Northern Ireland's history – Good Friday and Omagh, the best and worst moments of a generation. The loaded gun still remains on the negotiating table and a familiar mistrust hangs over the new Assembly. But as the politicians continue to struggle through the difficult issues of decommissioning, of amnesty of coalition, old ways of thinking need to be discarded and mindsets decommissioned.

One thing is clear: this ideological ceasefire represents the greatest challenge for Northern Ireland into the millennium, and one in which, perhaps, the pen is more powerful than the gun.

PADDY ASHDOWN

The reviewer is leader of the Liberal Democrats

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Our poems this week come from Michael Hamburger's 'Collected Poems 1941-1994', published at £12.95 by Arvil Press, which this year celebrates 30 years of independent poetry publishing

MONDAY POEM

GREY HEAT
BY MICHAEL HAMBURGER

Grey heat, but a breeze blends
Day lily with evening primrose,
Bronzed orange with purest lemon.

Care lasts longer, and longer
The town's blend of grey,
The rise, the crumbling of brickwork.

Less long the thrust of a spade at the roots,
The blows of great hammers on housefronts,
The grey sea wave that licks the light from your eyes.

Dare look, presume to believe
The blending of day-long petals,
Momentous whim of a breeze.

Admiral of the Fleet Lord Lewin

TERRY LEWIN was regarded by many as the best Admiral the Royal Navy has produced since the Second World War. As Chief of the Defence Staff during the Falklands War he was Margaret Thatcher's trusted defence adviser and executive and a remarkably effective link man between the War Cabinet and the Task Force. He was also a keen amateur naval historian and leading authority on Captain Cook.

Throughout his career, Lewin never allowed promotion to change him. A humane and humble man, he always had time for people, no matter what their status.

When the Falklands crisis escalated, Lewin was in New Zealand - 10,000 miles away from his desk in Whitehall. His Flag Lieutenant woke him at 2am on 4 April 1982 with the words: "They've invaded." He did not need to ask who had invaded, or where, and was back in London 28 hours later.

He went from Heathrow to a meeting of the newly formed War Cabinet - Thatcher, William Whitelaw, Francis Pym, John Nott and Cecil Parkinson. The message Lewin delivered to them was grimly resolute: "We must be prepared to take losses. But we are not going to lose. The only thing which will make us lose is if you lose your nerve."

The first ships of the Task Force sailed only five days after the Argentine invasion. It was to carry out an amphibious landing over 8,000 miles away, vastly outnumbered by defending forces and under fierce air attack from shore-based aircraft. British forces were neither prepared nor equipped for the task, having been geared to face a Russian threat close to home. "The truth is the country had no right to expect that we could succeed in this," Lewin was to say later. But they did.

Terence Thornton Lewin was born in 1920 and educated at the Judd School, Tonbridge. He entered the Royal Navy in 1939 and was a cadet on board *Belfast* at the outbreak of hostilities. The cruiser - now a floating museum on the Thames - was soon crippled by one of the first magnetic mines and Lewin joined the battleship *Vulcan*. After the Norwegian campaign *Vulcan* was involved in the action against the French fleet off the coast of North Africa when the Royal Navy opened fire on the warships of her late ally to prevent their falling into Axis hands.

During three years in the Tribal-class destroyer *Ashanti*, Lewin won the DSC and was three times mentioned in despatches. *Ashanti* was involved in the convoys to North Russia, then Operation Pedestal which

saved Malta from surrender, and action in the Arctic and in the English Channel during the liberation of Europe.

His DSC was for "high personal example, leadership and outstanding endurance and fortitude" when *Ashanti's* sister-ship *Somali* was torpedoed by a U-boat on 20 September 1942 during the passage of Convoy QP14 from Archangel to Loch Ewe. *Somali* broke in two in a Force 10 gale and began to sink. Lieutenant Lewin went down on a scrambling net to reach survivors in the water, putting himself in great danger of being washed away. He saved the lives of many men that night but the memory of one who

As Chief of the Defence Staff during the Falklands War, Lewin became, according to one MoD deputy secretary, 'the most powerful man in England'

was lost was to haunt him. He remembered later: "I grabbed their first lieutenant but the ship was rolling, he was very heavy and covered in oil and I lost him."

After the war, Lewin specialised as a gunnery officer and served in the destroyer *Chequers* and as a Planning Officer in the Ministry of Defence before returning to sea as captain of *Corunna* and then commander of the Royal Yacht *Britannia*. He also found time to represent the Navy at rugby - scoring a try from the wing against the RAF in 1948 - and athletics.

As a Commanding Officer, Lewin used Shakespearean references when sending orders to other ships. An order for a vessel to detach herself from a flotilla would be signalled as a "Macbeth Act 2, Scene 4"; a hurried thumb through the *Collected Works* would reveal the command: "Avant! and quit my sight." Lewin, it was said, would also telegraph his wife with biblical chapter and verse numbers, leaving her to use the Authorised Version to decode his message.

In 1961 Lewin became Captain F of the Dartmouth Training Squadron in the frigates *Urchin* and *Tenby*; former cadets recall his close personal interest in each of them and his invitations to tremendously enjoyable group breakfasts in the captain's sea cabin.

After eight years in seagoing appointments, Lewin returned to the Ministry of Defence in 1964 as Director, Naval Tactical and Weapons Policy Division. Here he worked to limit the damage inflicted by the 1966 Defence Review.

He then commanded the aircraft carrier *Hermes* before returning to the Ministry of Defence in 1968 as a Rear-Admiral and Assistant Chief of Naval Staff (Policy). His final seagoing appointment was as Flag Officer, Second-in-Command, Far East Fleet just before the handover of Britain's Singapore base to the island republic's government.

In 1971 Lewin was promoted Vice-Admiral and became Vice-Chief of the Naval Staff. The inexorable rise continued with promotion to full Admiral in 1973 and appointments as Commander-in-Chief Fleet and Commander-in-Chief Naval Home Command before becoming First Sea Lord in 1977.

It was not an easy time to lead the Royal Navy. Pay levels were well below civilian rates and falling morale had led to record numbers applying to leave the Service. Lewin told sailors that he considered himself "your shop steward" and won them a 32 per cent pay rise.

As Chief of the Defence Staff during the Falklands War, Lewin became, according to one MoD deputy secretary, "the most powerful man in England". A recent reform had elevated CDS to being a genuine, single defence chief rather than chairman of the Chiefs of Staff. This gave him direct access to Margaret Thatcher as her sole military adviser and he quickly won her confidence. Lewin realised that time was crucial in order to achieve victory. He became the key man in the War Cabinet, urging decisive action and leading the politicians rather than passively carrying out their wishes.

On 2 May 1982 Lewin called aside the War Cabinet at Chequers and requested a change in the rules of engagement such that the cruiser *General Belgrano* could be attacked outside the designated Total Exclusion Zone. Thatcher authorised the change - reputedly in the entrance porch at Chequers. The submarine *Conqueror* sank the *Belgrano*, killing 368 of her sailors. It was the turning point of the war and of the Thatcher administration.



Lewin in 1982, in front of a painting by John Webber RA, who had been a draughtsman on Captain Cook's third voyage, 1776-80

Throughout the ensuing controversy, Lewin remained adamant that he had made the right decision, saying later: "I regret the heavy loss of life and the world-wide concern it caused but I have no regrets at all about sinking the *Belgrano*."

Even when under intense pressure, Lewin never failed to treat all those with whom he came into contact with the utmost consideration. Early in the Falklands War, two helicopters which had just landed troops on South Georgia were lost during a blizzard. A young radio operator from the destroyer *Antirum* wrote a letter home which included details of the lost aircraft. The sailor's proud mother showed the letter to a local newspaper,

thereby inadvertently releasing information that the Government had deemed secret.

The MoD was furious and there was talk of the sailor's being court-martialled. The sailor's father wrote to John Nott, the Defence Secretary, apologising for the actions of his son and his wife and requesting that his son be treated leniently. On seeing a copy of the Secretary of State's andy reply, Lewin took a £10 note out of his pocket and asked his Flag Lieutenant to send the mother some flowers; he wrote an accompanying note which read: "Please do not worry. You acted as any mother would and I fully understand. With best wishes, Terry Lewin."

When he retired as CDS, Lewin

was waved off by an unprecedentedly large group of staff officers, a number of them moved to tears. He remained very active in public life - as a cross-bencher in the Lords and, notably, as Chairman of the Trustees of the National Maritime Museum - as well as enjoying a particularly happy family life.

TOBY HARNDEN

Terence Thornton Lewin, naval officer; born Dover 19 November 1920; DSC 1942; Commander, HMV Britannia 1957-58; LVO 1958; Captain F Dartmouth Training Squadron 1961-63; Director, Naval Tactical and Weapons Policy Division, Ministry of Defence 1964-65; (Policy) 1963-69; Flag Officer, Second-in-Command, Far East Fleet 1969-70; Vice-Chief of the Naval Staff 1971-73; C-in-C, Fleet 1973-75; KCB 1973; C-in-C, Naval Home Command 1975-77; Flag ADC to the Queen 1975-77; First and Principal ADC 1977-79; CCB 1976; Chief of the Naval Staff and First Sea Lord 1977-79; Chief of the Defence Staff 1979-82; created 1982 Baron Lewin; KG 1983; President, Shipwrecked Fishermen and Mariners' Royal Benevolent Association 1984-95; Chairman, Trustees, National Maritime Museum 1987-95; married 1944 Jane Branch-Evans (two sons, one daughter); died Woodbridge, Suffolk 23 January 1999.

Susan Strasberg

THE DAUGHTER of Lee Strasberg, proponent of the Method and founder of the famed Actors' Studio, and his wife Paula, who achieved notoriety as Marilyn Monroe's coach, Susan Strasberg was starring on Broadway in *The Diary of Anne Frank* at the age of 17; two years later she had the plum role of an aspiring actress in a screen remake of *Morning Glory*, which in 1933 had won an Oscar for Katharine Hepburn.

It had seemed as if the beautiful, dark-haired actress might have an impact equal to that made by Jean Simmons and Audrey Hepburn as ingenues, but, though she continued acting in films, theatre, and particularly television, Strasberg's career never fulfilled its early promise, and her story is one of the sadder ones of show business, both her personal and professional life suffering what the actress herself later referred to as "vicissitudes in fortune".

Born in New York City in 1938, she attended the High School of Music and Arts, the High School of Performing Arts and the Professional School, and did some modelling before making her stage debut in an off-Broadway play, *Maya*, at the age of 14. "As far as I can see," she later said, "about the only thing I've missed is a college education."

In 1953 she made her television debut in *Catch a Falling Star* on the Goodyear Playhouse, and the following year won praise as Juliet in a live telecast of *Romeo and Juliet*. Also in 1954, she had a regular role in a fondly remembered though short-lived situation comedy series, *The Marriage*, which starred Hume Cronyn as a lawyer and Jessica Tandy as his wife with Strasberg as their 15-year-old daughter - the show has the distinction of being the first network series to be telecast in colour.

Strasberg made her screen debut in Vincente Minnelli's *The Cobweb* (1955), a static and unpopular portrait of life in a psychiatric clinic, though the scene in which Strasberg and John Kerr also making his screen debut, as two patients suffering from claustrophobia who give each other courage when they go to a cinema together was a highlight. The actress was also effective as

Kim Novak's book-worm younger sister in *Picnic* (1955).

Both films were awaiting release when she was cast as Anne Frank in Frances Goodrich and Albert Hackett's dramatisation of the young girl's diaries, a role that brought stardom. Brooks Atkinson in *The New York Times* called her "a slender, enchanting young lady with a heart-shaped face, a pair of burning eyes and the soul of an actress". Her parents had stayed away from rehearsals and allowed her to be directed by Garson Kanin, and Lee Strasberg stated,

"When we saw Susie in action, we were all amazed at her great sensitivity. I just don't know how she picked it all up. She's never had any formal training."

Within three months her name was in lights above the title, though Noël Coward, after seeing her wistfully appealing performance, wrote in his diary:

"She plays it well, very well indeed, but she knows too much. Poor child, in future it is to be hoped that she learns to know less."

'She plays it well, very well indeed,' wrote Noël Coward, 'but she knows too much. Poor child, in future it is to be hoped that she learns to know less'

future years it is to be hoped that she learns to know less.

Strasberg herself, though her childhood had been spent surrounded by theatre folk, had been too young to attend her father's classes, then after her success did not find the time. "There are so many things I want to do," she said, "I'm lucky I started young."

During the two-year run of the play, Strasberg formed a close friendship with Marilyn Monroe, who had been studying with Lee Strasberg and who had come heavily under the influence of Paula Strasberg. "Marilyn used to tell me she envied me having a mother and father," said the actress. "She said she missed having a home life and parents who cared." Later Strasberg wrote a book about the

friendship, *Marilyn and Me - sisters, rivals and friends* (1992).

Susan Strasberg's major chance to attain screen stardom came with her casting as Eva Lovelace, the small-town girl who comes to New York determined to fulfil her destiny as a great actress, in *Stage Struck* (1955), based on Zoe Akins's play *Morning Glory*. Sidney Lumet's film successfully captured the atmosphere of the incestuous world of the New York theatre, but Strasberg's mannerisms alienated more viewers than they entranced. (The opposite had been true in 1933, when Hepburn's equally pronounced mannerisms had annoyed a minority but generally bewitched the public, who flocked to the film, which won her her first Academy Award.)

Strasberg was then bitterly disappointed not to be given the role of Anne Frank in George Stevens's film of the play, and she later suggested that it was because Stevens was afraid of Paula Strasberg, who was

Richard Burton fell in love with Susan, or more accurately Susan fell in love with him and he was not about to turn her down. My God, what a mess! I was the unwilling voyeur, or auditor if that's the word, of their intermission couplings. Susan and I had the only ground-floor dressing rooms, and she and Richard would make love in her dressing-room between the matinee and evening performances. Moans of ecstasy reverberating through the walls kept me awake. Even my radio turned up full blast couldn't drown them out. In more than 50 years as an actor I had never seen a theatre used that way. For me, theatres were temples and this one was being sullied. Couldn't they have rented a room in a Broadway hotel?

Strasberg and Burton did take an apartment together in New York, but the short-lived affair ended with the actress heart-broken. She confessed later that she had cared too much for the actor, notorious for romancing his leading ladies. Strasberg retained warm memories of Hayes, though: "I was young," she said. "Miss Hayes really took me under her wing as a woman and actress - and she was fun!" Hayes also had reservations, echoing Coward, of talent blossoming too soon without formal training or the time to accumulate the experience and technique required to sustain a long career.

Strasberg next appeared in *Shadow of a Gunman* (1958) with a group of Actors' Studio players, though she had still not attended the studio herself. "I could stand it, but I don't know if my father could," she said. She was part of the New York City Centre production of Saroyan's *The Time of Your Life* that played at the Brussels World Fair in 1958 before becoming a memorable *Armchair Theatre* presentation on ITV, its cast including Ann Sheridan, Dan Dailey, and Franchot Tone besides Strasberg, and the following year she toured with Tone in *Caesar and Cleopatra*.

In 1961 she was in a British horror film, playing the wheelchair-bound heroine of Seth Holt's *A Taste of Fear*, co-starring with Ann Todd, who later commented: "I thought it was a terrible film. I didn't like my part and I found Susan Strasberg impossible to work with, all that 'Method' stuff." In *The Adventures of a Young Man* (1962), based on the autobiographical short stories of



Strasberg in Roger Corman's *The Trip*, 1967 Kobal Collection

Ernest Hemingway, Strasberg was the ill-starred nurse with whom the wounded hero falls in love during the First World War, then she returned to Broadway to play Marguerite Gautier in Franco Zeffirelli's lush production of *The Lady of the Camellias* (1963), but her performance was considered far compared to the indelible memories of Garbo.

Disappointed in her career, Strasberg began to use a variety of drugs, and in 1965, despite having once said, "I'd rather not marry an actor because there isn't room in the house for two egos," she married the quixotic young actor Christopher Jones, who was taking LSD. The couple had a daughter, Jennifer, who was born with a congenital birth defect which the actress blamed on the drug-taking. Strasberg and

Jones were divorced after just one year of marriage.

She returned to England to appear as Dirk Bogarde's love interest in Ralph Thomas's story of anti-British terrorists in 1964 Cyprus, *The High Bright Sun* (1966), after which her film career became undistinguished, including some youth exploitation movies for American International (*The Trip*, *Psych-Out*) and some films in Italy, where she lived for a while, becoming noted for the poker sessions she held in her large apartment. ("At the beginning, when they thought me a novice, I cleaned out a couple of the boys," she remarked later.)

An independently produced horror film, *Who Fears The Devil?* (1973), has acquired a cult reputation as an off-beat tale of hill-hillies

battling the devil, but *The Marlowe* (1978), in which Strasberg sprouted a foetus on her neck, wasted her talents along with those of such veterans as Tony Curtis, Ann Sothern and Burgess Meredith. Her most prolific work was on television, with countless guest appearances in shows including *McMillan and Wife*, *Streets of San Francisco*, *The Rockford Files*, *Cogney and Lacey* and *Murder She Wrote*. In 1980 she wrote an autobiography, *Bitter Sweet*, because, she said later, her career was "stalled".

It seemed totally untenable to me, acting for 25 years - I had played Juliet, Cleopatra and Anne Frank - and there I was, sitting in Hollywood just waiting for somebody to want me.

She criticised her father for being preoccupied with his acting classes and her mother for alienating prospective employers with the strong supervisory stance she adopted over her daughter's work. (Knowing that her father had a crush on Jennifer Jones, the 16-year-old Strasberg had aspired to please her father by emulating Jones's dark hair and eyebrows. "When I saw photos of myself," she said later, "I realised with a shock that I resembled a young Jennifer Jones.")

Among Strasberg's last films were *The Delta Force* (1986), in which she was a passenger on a hijacked plane, and *Prime Suspect* (1989) with Frank Stallone.

Back in 1959, when asked about her future, Strasberg had talked excitedly of plans to do *The Wild Duck* with Sir Laurence Olivier. But that was just four years after the first night of *The Diary of Anne Frank* when her triumph had been so emphatic that - Lee, Paula, Susan and Marilyn Monroe having taken their places in Sardi's restaurant after the show, and before the newspapers had appeared - Franchot Tone stood and asked all the patrons to join him in a toast, saying, "Little Susan, you have been launched on a long and glittering career."

TOM VALLANCE

Susan Strasberg, actress; born New York 22 May 1938; married 1965 Christopher Jones (one daughter); marriage dissolved 1966; died New York 21 January 1999.

"FAIR, FAIR but firm," was it one barrister learning of the William Mars-Jones. It is a likely to be echoed by those eared before him and not a faintly. Although he may have sternly whilst on the bench many of his generation he a man who believed that, des-whelming evidence to the cor authorities were incapable of badly from time to time. When they had, he acted accordingly.

On the bench, he presided notorious ABC trial in 1978. John Berry, a former corps Royal Corps of Signals, was for under the unpopular section (Official Secrets Act of 1951) information to the journalists Duncan Bell and John Aubrey. Carr then written in *Time Out* the and American forces regularly torred the airwaves, and ne sites from which monitoring. Many were surprised when porters were given condit charges and Barry a short sentence by Mars-Jones.

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FOR KELLY was one of the keygen but seminal musica ad just in passing, influen famous names who built thei tions during the Sixties blue Born in Glasgow in 1930, he w taught piano in bar-house - a loosely defined area w blues overlaps with the folkie ragtime. As a bar-house pian found himself with the interv Ken Colyer's club, the 51 Chl Charing Cross Road in the m The normally hypercritical f er was sufficiently impressed "authenticity" (a much-valued teristic in those imitative days Kelly into his "band within a b Colyer Skiffle Group, also spo

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

DEATHS

TOBIAS: Estella. A woman of immense character, passed away suddenly after a short illness, on 4 January 1999. Deeply mourned by husband Manry (1917-95), children Harvey, Ricky, Monica and Alison, and grandchildren Frances, Emma, Alexander, Mark, Scott and Brian. Now at rest. We will continue to feel that special and enduring love borne from a courageous and spirited woman. Always in our thoughts and in our hearts.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am. F Queen's Guard, at Buckingham Palace, 11.30am, band provided by the Irish Guards.

Sir William Mars-Jones

"FAIR, FAIR but firm," was the view of one barrister learning of the death of William Mars-Jones. It is a sentiment likely to be echoed by those who appeared before him and not a few defendants. Although he may have presided sternly whilst on the bench, unlike many of his generation he was not a man who believed that, despite overwhelming evidence to the contrary, the authorities were incapable of behaving badly from time to time. When he found they had, he acted accordingly.

On the bench, he presided over the notorious ABC trial in 1978 in which John Berry, a former corporal in the Royal Corps of Signals, was found guilty under the unpopular section two of the Official Secrets Act of passing information to the journalists Duncan Campbell and John Aubrey. Campbell had then written in *Time Out* that British and American forces regularly monitored the airwaves, and named the sites from which monitoring occurred. Many were surprised when the reporters were given conditional discharges and Barry a short suspended sentence by Mars-Jones.

In 1983 he took the unusual step of banning both Jews and Muslims from the jury in the case of two Jordanian students and an Iraqi businessman for the attempted assassination of the Israeli Ambassador, who had been shot through the head.

Three years later he sentenced Nezar Hindawi to 45 years' imprisonment, the longest single term imposed in Britain, after he had been found guilty of trying to blow up an Israeli aeroplane by planting a bomb in his pregnant girlfriend's luggage. The trial had been a merry one and Gilbert Gray QC, acting for Hindawi, told the jury that "another nation may take retribution" if they convicted. Mars-Jones expressed surprise that Gray had suggested that armed conflict could break out following the verdict. "It is a suggestion which should never have been made," he added, telling the jury their decision would not alter the attitude of foreign powers or Britain. "Keep your cool," he said.

In the case of the actor John Bindon, acquitted of what the prosecution had alleged was a contract killing in Putney, it was thought that Mars-Jones had been sympathetic towards Bindon in his summing-up and unhappy with a ragbag of witnesses produced by the prosecution.

On the civil side, in 1984 he ordered Harrow Borough Council to pay damages to a schoolgirl who had put on excessive weight after she had broken a leg jumping a hurdle in a physical education class. The girl had put on some 70lb and Mars-Jones said: "She is entitled to compensation for the fact that she became so grossly overweight, which certainly made her look less attractive. Her vast increase in size was



Mars-Jones, right, with his assistant John Wood on the second day of the Moors Murders trial, 1966

a direct result of her inactivity. She was bored and unhappy, so she took to eating sweets and more hospital food than her body required."

He also made a highly controversial decision when, in 1982, he awarded David and Lucille White, a middle-aged Jamaican couple, substantial damages for what he described "monstrous, wicked and shameful" police conduct. He accused the police of a five-year cover-up of what he described as their "brutal, savage and sustained variety of assaults," which had occurred when the police had raided the couple's home in Stoke Newington, London.

Born in 1915 in Llansannan, where his father, later chairman of Denbighshire County Council, ran the village post office, Mars-Jones attended Denbigh School. He obtained a First in Law at University College, Aberystwyth, where he was not only president of the Students' Council and the Central Students' Council but was also regarded as a great entertainer. Throughout his life he was a brilliant raconteur and mimic. He was also an accomplished musician, playing the guitar, piano and, more unusually, the ukulele.

He then attended St John's College, Cambridge, where he was a member of the Cambridge Footlights. He read for the Bar, joining Gray's Inn and, when the Second World War broke out, the Navy, becoming a lieutenant-commander. He became a Bencher of the Inn in 1964 and was its Treasurer in 1982.

Immediately after the war he stood as Labour candidate for West Denbigh, losing to the sitting Conservative member. He then abandoned any political ambitions and threw himself into life on the Wales and Chester Circuit, first as its junior and then in later life as its leader and finally presiding judge. He was elected an honorary life member shortly before he retired in 1990.

A fluent Welsh speaker, he was a man who had a reputation for being a fighter and thereby enjoying the following of a large number of solicitors, he took silk in 1957. He prosecuted the notorious Moors Murders trial and was appointed to the High Court bench in 1969. He had already served as Recorder of Birkenhead, of Swansea and of Cardiff from 1963. He was also Deputy Chairman of Denbighshire Quarter Sessions from 1962 to 1968.

In 1964 he headed the Home Office Inquiry into allegations against Metropolitan Police Officers and he also chaired the Home Secretary's Advisory Council on the Penal System in 1966.

He married Sheila Cobon in 1947 and they had three sons, including the writer Adam Mars-Jones, who acted as his father's Marshal at the Black Panther trial for the killing of Leslie Whittle. In a fictionalised account he described his father as "wizened", something about which Bill Mars-Jones took friendly umbrage. After his wife's death last year, Mars-Jones became increasingly frail, rarely visiting the Garrick Club, of which he was a long-standing member.

JAMES MORTON

William Lloyd Mars-Jones, judge, born Llansannan, Denbighshire 4 September 1915; called to the Bar, Gray's Inn 1939, Bencher 1964, Treasurer 1982; MBE 1945; Recorder of Birkenhead 1959-65, Swansea 1965-68, Cardiff 1968-69; Judge of the High Court of Justice, Queen's Bench Division 1969-90; KT 1969; married 1947 Sheila Cobon (died 1998; three sons); died London 10 January 1999.

Bob Kelly

BOB KELLY was one of those little-known but seminal musicians who, most in passing, influenced many famous names who built their reputations during the Sixties blues boom. Born in Glasgow in 1930, he was a self-taught pianist in barrelhouse tradition - a loosely defined area where the blues overlaps with the folkier end of ragtime. As a barrelhouse pianist Kelly found himself with the interval spot at Ken Colyer's club, the 51 Club, off the Charing Cross Road in the mid-Fifties.

The normally hypercritical Ken Colyer was sufficiently impressed with his "authenticity" (a much-valued characteristic in those imitative days) to take Kelly into his "band without a band" the Colyer Shuffle Group, also sporadically

graced by the presence of the father of British blues, Alexis Korner. With them Kelly recorded several titles including his showpiece adaptation of Big Bill Broonzy's *House Rent Stomp*, the number now most often associated with him.

Kelly erupted briefly on to the pages of the national press when his liaison with the internationally known singer Nancy Whiskey became a matter of controversy. In 1957 she was enjoying fame with the world-wide hit *Freight Train* (1957), recorded with Chas McDavitt, when out of the blue she announced she was packing up show business to marry Bob Kelly. Kelly's estranged wife promptly gave a press conference to describe why this might be difficult under existing law; the whole thing was a nine-day

wonder in those more innocent days. However, the marriage did eventually take place and lasted the 40 years until Kelly's death. The two produced a daughter, Yancy, named after Jimmy Yancy, the exceptionally talented Twenties Chicago pianist, whom they both idolised.

Whiskey returned to music after the birth, touring with her own group the Teetottallers, which included Bob Kelly, drums and piano, and Dixie Dismay on guitar. However the onset of the illness that was to make Bob Kelly a permanent invalid was already apparent and more than once this writer was drafted in, with drums and washboard, to fill the gap when ill-health struck.

In later years Kelly would play Sunday lunchtimes at the Phoenix Theatre,

Leicester, and his fellow pianists Johnny (Bad Penny Blues) Parker and Stan Greig would join him to make the whole day a piano-playing event. His last appearance was in 1998 at his own benefit gig in the 100 Club in London. Wheelchair-bound, he listened as musicians from the whole spectrum of popular music paid him tribute and his recordings with Ken Colyer were played.

JOHN PILGRIM

Bob Kelly, pianist, born Glasgow 20 February 1930; twice married (one daughter); died Leicester 14 January 1999.

GAZETTE

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

DEATHS

TOBIAS: Estelle. A woman of immense character, passed away suddenly after a short illness, on 4 January 1999. Deeply mourned by husband Manny (46/7905), children Harvey, Ricky, Monica and Allison, and grandchildren Francesca, Emma, Alexander, Mark, Scott and Brett. Now at rest. We will continue to feel that special and enduring love borne from a courageous and spirited woman. Always in our thoughts and in our hearts.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am; F. Japan's Scouts Guards mounts the Queen's Guard at Buckingham Palace, 11.30am, hand provided by the Irish Guards.

BIRTHDAYS

The Rev Professor George Anderson, Old Testament theologian, 86; Sir Tom Arnold, former MP, 52; Mr Raymond Baxter, broadcaster and writer, 77; Viscount Blakenham, former chairman and chief executive, Pearson plc, 61; The Most Rev Dermot Clifford, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Cashel and Emly, 60; Vice-Admiral Sir David Clutterbuck, 86; Miss Emma Friend, television presenter, 37; Sir Paul Girolami, former chairman, Glaxo Holdings, 73; Sir Brian Hayes, Deputy Commissioner, Metropolitan Police, 59; Professor Geoffrey Lloyd, Master of Darwin College, Cambridge, 68; Sir James Melton, former diplomat, 70; Sir David Nicholas, former chairman and chief executive, ITN, 69; Lord Nicholls of Birkenhead, a Lord of Appeal in Ordinary, 66; Mr

Bill O'Brien MP, 70; Mr Tom Paulin, poet, 50; Air Commodore April Reed, former Director, RAF Nursing Services, 69; The Right Rev Anthony Russell, Area Bishop of Dorchester, 58; Mr David Shatlock, Chief Constable, Avon and Somerset, 63; Miss Angela Thorpe, actress, 60; Professor Edward Ullendorff, philologist, 79; Admiral Sir Peter White, former Chief of Fleet Support, 80.

ANNIVERSARIES

Births: Robert Boyle, physicist and chemist, 1627; Robert Burns, poet, 1759; Adeline Virginia Woolf, writer, 1882. Deaths: Robertson Hare, actor, 1979; Ava Lavina Gardner, actress, 1990. On this day: Henry VIII married Anne Boleyn, 1533. Today is Burns Night and the Feast Day of the Conversion of St Paul, St

Apollo, St Artemas, St Dwywen, Saints Juveninus and Maximinus, St Poppo, St Praejectus or Pric and St Publius.

LECTURES

Royal Society of Arts, London WC2: Dr Kimberley Reynolds and Nicholas Tucker, "The Changing Child and the Evolving Picture Book", 6pm (telephone 0171-930 9286 for tickets).

DINNERS

Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors. The annual dinner of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors was held on Saturday evening at the Grosvenor House Hotel, London W1. Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare and Mr Ken Livingstone MP spoke on "The Qualities Required

for a Mayor of London". Mr Peter Hobday was in the chair. Mr Richard Lay, President of the Institution, was the host.

LINCOLN'S INN

Sir John Balcombe, Treasurer, the Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn, and Lady Balcombe, visited Lord Denning on Saturday at his home in Whitechurch, Hampshire, to convey greetings from his fellow benchers and the members, students and staff of Lincoln's Inn, on the occasion of his 100th birthday.

SIR WILLIAM MARS-JONES

A Memorial Service for Sir William Mars-Jones MBE LL.D will be held in Gray's Inn Chapel on Monday 1 March at 5pm.

THE FOLLOWING notes of judgments were prepared by the reporters of the All England Law Reports.

Landlord and tenant

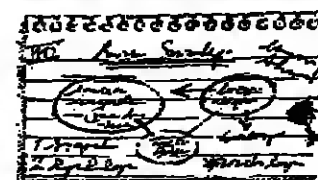
Surrey County Council v Lamond; CA (Lord Woolf MR, Brooke LJ) 16 Dec 1998. FOR THE purposes of determining whether a tenancy was not a secure tenancy by reason of Sch 1 para 2 of the Housing Act 1985, because the tenant was an employee of the landlord or of a local authority, and his contract of employment required him to occupy the dwelling-house for the better performance of his duties, the court had to discover the duties which the employee had to perform and then ask itself whether it was really practical for the employee to carry out those duties if he did not live in the property in question.

Jeffrey Widdup (Legal Dept, Surrey County Council) for the plaintiff; Alastair Paxton (Downs) for the defendant.

Partnership

Don King Productions Inc v Warren and ors; CA (Morritt, Aldous, Hutchison LJ) 21 Dec 1998. PROPERTY WHICH was not assignable might nevertheless be partnership property for the purposes of s 20 of the Partnership Act 1890, since the question whether an asset was brought into the partnership stock or acquired... on account of the firm did not depend on whether it was assignable at law. Partnership property within a 20 included that to which a partner was entitled and which all the

HARD TIMES in the high street. The Grocer laments jam's struggle. Sales are down, but demand grows for better stuff ("extra jam"). Sandra Sherratt, of Trustin, avers that "they are eating fewer host products" and Fiona Chafin of Nestlé experiences fewer "breakfast occasions". Ian Grieg of Robertson's wants,



RELIGIOUS NOTES GLORIA TESSLER

The vexed, holier-than-thou question

OF ALL the challenges that face us in the Millennium, religion must surely be one of the greatest. In the Western world, cynicism and the worship of the superficial, the idolatry of physical form, has replaced spirituality, at least where religion was once celebrated as an edifice of national hope.

Jewish people confront this age of secularisation in different ways. For a start they look to the state of Israel as a pinnacle of hope. Rooted in biblical Israel and dispersed throughout the world, many Jews regard the country as a state of mind as much as an actual place; it has the allure of a mirage even for those who have lost faith in its politics. Yet the politics of the Jewish state radiate beyond its own sphere of influence in the Middle East. The bitter conflicts within the country are not simply concerned with Israel's attitude towards the Palestinian question, but relate crucially to its own identity and its Judaism, which is mirrored back to Jews in Britain and the rest of the world.

In Britain there are new, if precarious hopes for a reconciliation between the Orthodox and Progressive Jews, ending that vexed, holier-than-thou question of who is a Jew. In Israel, such a deal would be harder to secure, not least because the Progressives have very little power and the right to the sanctity of Orthodox life appears to be

a battle for the soul of Israel. What might be considered a watered-down Judaism would be regarded there as a risk to the life-blood of the religion as well as to the state itself.

In Britain, the majority of most Jews belong to the United Synagogue, a mean average of Jewish Orthodox observance. Yet ironically, membership of the United Synagogue may well be the only Jewish act of faith some of its members will ever make. Many of them lead otherwise secular lives and following the "party line" on religion offers the opt-out clause of having someone else do your thinking for you. Many Progressives, on the other hand, though criticised for not facing up to the rigours of a demanding religion, have made a stand for a Judaism with which they can more honestly keep faith.

The disharmony between Orthodox and Progressives in Britain could be seen as a pale reflection of the internal disarray within Israel itself, denuded of a leader of skill and vision. In Israel there are few shades of Jewish thought and opinion manifest in the attitudes of the state itself. There you are either religious or secular. While Judaism has always survived as a religion encircled by opposition and persecution, a Jewish state fought for and won by the intellectual socialists of 50 years ago has paradoxically risked the weakening of its religious fabric. Why? The

secret, they say, is in the soil and toil of Israel, so much of it reclaimed from the desert which has bred a philosophy of practical realism.

A recent report stating that 64 per cent of the ultra-Orthodox population opted for turning Israel into a theocracy shocked some of Anglo-Jewry's modern Orthodox followers - those who adhere strictly to the principles of their faith but still recognise as Jews those Progressives whom they might once have derided as worshippers of a lesser god. And along with the signing of the peace treaty in Britain, as delicate as those stumbling, hesitant accords of Oslo and Wye, there are auspicious beginnings in Israel, too. In recognition of the need for Jewish cohesion, many religious Jews in Israel are burying their differences and holding out the hand of friendship to those they still term the secular citizens of the state.

So, for British Jews the hope of spiritual enlightenment in any real sense is a true challenge for the Millennium. In a Britain where Sunday has become just another shopping day, it is often left to the minority faiths to preserve that focus on their own gods. And Jews of all complexities will, one hopes, remember their Sabbath.

Gloria Tessler is the author of *Amelie: the story of Lady Jakobovits* (Valentine Mitchell, £20)

CASE SUMMARIES

25 JANUARY 1999

partners expressly or by implication agreed should, as between themselves, be treated as partnership property. It was immaterial, as between the partners, whether it could be assigned by the partner in whose name it stood to the partners jointly.

Damages

Royal Brompton Hospital National Health Trust v Hammond and ors; QBD, Technology and Construction Court (Judge Bicks QC) 8 Jan 1999.

THE PRINCIPLE in *Biggin & Co v Permanent Ltd* (1951) 2 All ER 191, namely that the costs of a settlement with a third party should be treated as the measure of damages in an action against defendants provided that the settlement terms were reasonable, extended to cases where the settlement involved a compromise of issues of liability on a claim as well as of quantum.

Anthony Edwards-Shuart QC, Mark Cannon (Hawsons) for the plaintiff; Adrian Williams (Davies Arnold Cooper) for the first to seventh, and 13th defendants; Marcus Turner (Pashburn Bazer) for the eighth, 14th and 15th defendants; Andrew Bartlett QC (Berryman, Lees Mowbray) for the ninth and 16th defendants; Alexander Nissen (Cameron McKenna) for the 11th defendant.

Town and country planning

McClea Homes (East Anglia) Ltd v Secretary of State for the Environment Transport and the Regions and anor; QBD,

Crown Office List (George Bartlett QC sitting as a deputy High Court judge) 8 Jan 1999. THE NECESSITY for an inspector hearing a planning appeal to give reasons for his decision applied with particular force to applications for approval of reserved matters. In such cases the principle of development had been established by the grant of outline planning permission, and a somewhat fuller explanation for the refusal to approve reserved matters might be required than in the case of proposals which were fundamentally unobjectionable.

Custody time limits

R v Central Criminal Court, ex p Johnson; QBD, Div Ct (Buxton LJ, Collins J); 18 Jan 1999. AS A forensic science laboratory was independent of the police force it could not form part of the prosecution itself. A laboratory's delay in producing evidence of analysis was not therefore relevant to the question whether there had been due expedition on the part of the prosecution for the purposes of extending custody time limits. However, the prosecution were not entitled to refrain from taking any action, indicating that the matter was in the hands of the laboratory. It had to do everything possible to ensure that the laboratory was aware of the date on which the time limits were due to expire so that the evidence was available before that date.

Andrew Bodnar (Clifford Watts Compton) for the applicant; Neil Saunders (CPS) for the prosecution.

WORDS

CHRISTOPHER HAWTREE

deep-cut, *adj.*

stickily, "category management to make jam fixtures easier to shop. One in four consumers walk past the fixture without making a purchase because they think it is too complicated." He will

Don't say I haven't tested my body to the limit

SOMETHING DARING that I like to do at this time of year is to go out without putting on my coat or gloves, or any other protection against the elements, and walk the 30 or so yards to the bottom of our drive to bring in the morning paper from a little box on a post.

Now you might say that that doesn't sound very daring at all, and in a sense you would be right because it only takes about 20 seconds there and back, but here is the thing that makes it special: sometimes I hang around out there just to see how long I can stand the cold.

I don't want to sound boastful, but I have devoted much of my life to testing the tolerance to extremes of the human body, often with very little thought to the potential long-term peril to myself - for instance, allowing a leg to go fast asleep in a cinema and then seeing what happens if I try to go for popcorn, or wrapping an elastic band around my index finger to see if I can make it explode.

It is through this work that I have made some important

breakthroughs, notably the discovery that very hot surfaces don't necessarily look hot, and that temporary amnesia can be reliably induced by placing the head immediately beneath an open drawer.

I expect your instinct is to regard such behaviour as foolhardy, but let me remind you of all those occasions when you yourself have stuck a finger into a small flame just to see what would happen - and what exactly did happen, eh? - or stood first on one leg and then the other in a scalding bath waiting for an inflow of cold water to moderate the temperature, or sat at a kitchen table quietly absorbed with letting melted candle wax drip onto your fingers, or a great deal else I could mention.

At least when I engage in these matters it is in a spirit of serious scientific enquiry. Which is why, as I say, I like to go for the morning paper in the least encumbering apparel that decency and Mrs Bryson will allow.

This morning when I set off it was minus 19F (minus 28C) out

there - cold enough to reconfigure the anatomy of a brass monkey, as I believe the saying has it. Unless you have a particularly vivid imagination, or are reading this in a chest freezer, you may find such extreme chilliness difficult to conceive.

So let me tell you just how cold it is: very.

When you step outside in such weather, for the first instant it is startlingly invigorating - not unlike the experience of diving into cold water; a sort of wake-up call to every corpulence.

But that phase passes quickly. Before you have trudged a few yards, your face feels as if it would after a sharp slap, your extremities are aching, and every breath you take hurts. By the time you return to the house your fingers and toes are throbbing with a gentle but insistent pain and you notice with interest that your cheeks yield no sensation at all.

The little residual heat you brought from the house is long gone, and your clothes have ceased to have any insulating



value. It is decidedly uncomfortable.

Nineteen degrees below zero is unusually cold even for northern New England, so I was interested to see how long I could bear such an exposure, and the answer was 39 seconds. I don't mean that that's how long it took for me to get bored with the idea, or to think, "Gracious it is rather chilly; I guess I'll go in now." I mean that's how long it took me to be so cold that I would have climbed over my mother to get inside first.

New Hampshire is famous for

its harsh winters, but in fact there are plenty of places much worse. The coldest temperature ever recorded here was minus 46F, back in 1925, but 20 other states - nearly half - have had lower lows than that. The bleakest thermometer reading yet seen in the US was at Prospect Creek, Alaska, in 1971, when the temperature fell to minus 79.8F.

Of course, almost any place can have a cold snap. The real test of a winter is in its duration. In International Falls, Minnesota, the winters are so long and ferocious that the mean annual temperature is just 36.5F (2.5C), which is very mean indeed. Nearby there is a town called (honestly!) Frigid, where I suspect the situation is even worse, but they are just too depressed to report.

However, the record for the most wretched inhabited place ever must surely go to Langdon, North Dakota, which in the winter of 1935-36 recorded 176 consecutive days of below freezing temperatures, including 67 consecutive days in which the

temperature fell below 0F (i.e. into the shrieking brass monkey zone) for at least part of the day, and 41 consecutive days when the temperature did not rise above 0F.

Personally, I would find it very hard to spend 176 consecutive days in North Dakota at any time, but I guess that is another matter.

In any case, I have all I can handle right here in New Hampshire. I was dreading the long, cruel winters in New England, but to my surprise they delight me. Partly it is because they are so shocking.

There really is something exhilarating about the sharpness of the cold, the cleanliness of the air. And winters here are stunningly pretty. Every rooftop and mailbox wears a jaunty cap of snow for months on end. Nearly every day the sun shines, so there is none of the oppressive grey gloom that characterises winter in so many other places.

And when the snow begins to get trampled or dirty, there is generally a new fall that fluffs it up a bit again.

People here actually get excited about winter. There is skiing and ice skating and sledging on the local gold course. One of our neighbours floods his back garden and turns it into a skating pond for the kids on our street. The local college has a winter carnival, with ice sculptures on the college green. It is all very cheery.

Best of all, you know that winter is just one in an endless cycle of reliable, well-defined seasons. When the cold starts to get to you, there is the reassurance of knowing that a good hot summer is just around the corner.

Apart from anything else it means a whole new set of interesting experimental challenges, involving sunburn, poison ivy, infectious deer ticks, electric hedge clippers and - this goes without saying - barbecue lighter fluid. I can't wait.

'Notes from a Big Country' by Bill Bryson (Doubleday, £16.99) can be purchased at major bookshops or by mail-order on 01624 675137

Harsh penalties in poisoned paradise

Goa used to be an idyllic island of free and easy lifestyle. But the tourist trade and police corruption are tainting the one-time hippy heaven. By Peter Popham

The boy from Leytonstone in East London was young and thin and out of his depth. He had a stubbly beard and thick glasses and wore a Chelsea strip, and was sandwiched between two friends, a girl and another boy, and the funk of fear came off him in waves, like heat. From the shadows of the gloomy office of the Anti-Narcotics Unit came the clattering of big old typewriters.

A smile twitched across his face: something bitterly comic had struck him. "I was done recently in London for a deal of grass," he said. "But the cop gave it back to me. He said it wasn't worth the paperwork."

In Goa, that deal is worth 10 years. Last week a Sunday newspaper reported that Alexia Stewart, the daughter of an Oxford don, and her boyfriend Gary Carter, had been sentenced to 10 years in prison in Goa for possession of cannabis, and had begun serving their sentences in Aguada prison in the state. The couple, who maintain that they were framed by the police, are the latest in a long line of young people from Britain whose lives to one of the world's cheapest yet most convincing versions of tropical paradise ends in disaster.

Goa is one of the most beautiful holiday destinations in India, and arguably in all of Asia. A Portuguese colony until forcibly taken over by independent India in 1961, it has everything one could wish for in a tropical resort. The beaches are long, broad and golden; those away from the greatest press of visitors are still fairly clean. Behind each beach is a grove of tall coconut palms, then a strip of paddy fields, then more palms, shading villages of handsome old Portuguese houses; hazy in the distance, framing the idyllic scene, are the slopes of the Western Ghats.

Goa has scenery, architecture, history, an extraordinary former capital full of immense churches abandoned hundreds of years ago; it has brilliant, balmy weather most of the year, and the style and poise of a place that still hangs on to its Latin urbanity.

Yet, as a result of commercial greed and myopia, instead of conserving and capitalising on its unique heritage, Goa has become one of the cheapest and most down-market tropical destinations in the world. During the season, that lasts from November to the end of March, thousands of young European holidaymakers fly into Dabolim Airport every week on charter flights, more than 60 per cent of them British. From there they fan out north and south across the state, the package holidaymakers sticking to the intensively developed tourist hot spots such as Calangute, the backpackers,



Goa's once unspoilt beaches are now packed with tourists - and rife with drugs, sold alongside food, drink and souvenirs

Nigel Tisdall/Rea

the students, the drole vacationers and the tractor drivers and grape pickers on furlough renting Enfield motorbikes, and heading north to Anjuna, Vagator and Arambol, south as far as Palolem.

For now, there is no beach in Goa that the visitors have not colonised. Some, like Calangute, have been so heavily developed that the increasingly squalid sand has become just an appendage to the sprawl of bars, boutiques and cafés under the palm trees. Others, like Arambol, still look virginal. But everywhere, from the busiest beach to the quietest, the necessary services are provided: shack cafés on the sand selling cold beer, fish curry and banana pancakes; dirt cheap rooms, some providing a mattress on a concrete floor for little more than £1 a night; rental motorbikes - and drugs.

In Goa there is no need to go looking for drugs; they come and find you. Anyone lying on the soft sand at Anjuna or Arambol has their reverie interrupted every few minutes by an amazing variety of hawkers: selling T-shirts and trinkets, offering beach umbrellas for rent, offering to clean the wax out of your ears (there is a sheaf of testimonials), offering "pineapple, sandwich, cold drinks, (sotto voce) dope..."

In the cafés in the lee of the rocks at Vagator, the hippies may seem a little self-absorbed, but unless you look outrageously out of place, sooner or later the joint will come round your way. At Arambol, as a Yorkshireman fresh from cutting and sorting tulips in Holland put it, while still finding his feet in Goa: "They really like chillums here - they stick

a big fat chillum in your face, and it seems a bit rude to turn it down."

Then there are the trance music parties all night on the beach, where Ecstasy or Acid are as much a part of it all as the music, and the cold, and paranoia, and heavy policing of Britain seem a million miles away.

Drugs have been integral to the Goa experience ever since Allan Ginsberg and his fellow proto-hippies discovered the place in the early Sixties. Soft drugs, particularly marijuana, have long had an ambiguous position in India.

At religious celebrations, like last year's Kumbh Mela on the banks of the Ganges, the holiest men of Hinduism, the naked ascetics called sadhus, openly smoked chillums or joints. In the Dionysian spring festival of Holi, a drink of bhang (made from the leaves of hemp) is a popular (and apparently legal) way of getting into the mood of abandonment. In the big cities, soft drugs are very readily obtained.

Yet it is this ambiguity that has proved disastrous for many visitors to Goa. The weather, the idyllic setting, the seductive sense that everything is easy and cheap, all conspire to create a sense of security. Yet the Indian law against cannabis possession is both clear and draconian. For possession of 25 grams or less, the sentence is six months. For more than 25 grams, it is 10 years. The sentences are mandatory. The judge has no leeway.

For many years, the main point of the drug laws appeared to be to provide the Goan police with a useful extra income. The saturation level of illegal drugs made the abuse

of police power easy and tempting. There were various popular scams: the simple plant followed by threatened arrest and backwards-extended hand; the dodgy dealer, making money at both ends, selling drugs on the beach then informing



Alexia Stewart, sentenced to 10 years in a Goan jail for possession of cannabis

the police. More ambitious wheezes involved extracting large sums in protection from the organisers of trance parties.

But, from time to time, the protests of big hoteliers and package tour operators prodded the police into trying to tackle Goa's "drug paradise" image more strenuously. This is what has been happening during the past two years, following the appointment of a new Inspector General of Police, and the decision by the state government to do everything in its power to frighten off the backpackers and rid Goa of its drug

image. Today, unlucky drug users on Goa's beaches no longer get just a nasty shock, the loss of a few thousand rupees in bribes and an abrupt end to their holiday. "Two or three years ago," said the frightened young Londoner awaiting interrogation in the central police station in Panjim, the state capital, "the police were really corrupt; you'd pay them and just leave the country." Today it is very different - or so they would have us believe.

The tale of Alexia Stewart and Gary Carter is certainly a cautionary one. The couple met in Goa four years ago, when Alexia was taking a break from teaching English in Japan. Like many before them who have been ravished by Goa's beauty, they decided to build a life around the place, spending half the year making money by teaching in Tokyo, and the rest running a cybercafé and clothes shop in Vagator, north Goa.

The dream ended and the nightmare began on 20 March last year, when police barged into the house they rented in Vagator and said they were looking for drugs. Another officer entered from the garden, holding a bag of cannabis which he claimed to have found in the house. Alexia told the *Sunday Times* that the drugs had been planted and that they were innocent.

"We kept telling the police we were long-term visitors to Goa and had spent £10,000 on setting up a local business. Why would we risk it all for £100 of cannabis? They said we could buy our freedom for £2,000, but we never believed the charges would stick, so we didn't pay. Now I would say to anyone that if the po-

lice ask you for money, pay them whether you are guilty or not."

After carrying out an inquiry into operations conducted by the officers who arrested the English couple, the head of police in Goa, Rajan Brar, asked for the charges against the English couple to be dropped. The judge, who hears all drugs cases in the state and is getting a name for severity, chose to ignore his advice and instead applied the mandatory sentence. Now the pair face the prospect of many years locked up for 22 hours out of every 24 in gloomy, airless cells, permitted only two letters and one visitor a month.

Goa's beauty has somehow survived the onslaught of developers and tour companies, but on the beaches the mood is souring. "Goa is much worse than it was," says the youth in Panjim police station. "It's much more crowded. Anjuna's pretty well gone. And they're hustling people all the time."

The beaches such as Anjuna, formerly known as peaceful hippy havens, are thronging in the season, the winding lanes under the palms nose-to-tail with rented motorbikes driven much too fast. And the police, bent as well as straight, make hay. In my guest house in Anjuna, two young French women, huddling by themselves in the restaurant, seem to be having a moody, joyless holiday. We get talking, and it transpires that their best friend is in jail, awaiting trial on drugs charges. They spend their days trying to drum up support for her, soliciting letters from home, drafting appeals to the judge, citing their friend's academic distinction and aristocratic family.

Also near Anjuna beach, in a nice old house behind the Orange Boom Restaurant, is a man who has seen it all. With dreadlocks to his waist and a comfortable paunch, Goa Gill looks the part of hippy patriarch. Around a log fire on his patio, as the sun goes down over the paddy fields, and the cicadas shriek in the palms, he recounts his journey here. He first came to Goa, he says, in 1970, after the original hippy scene in San Francisco's Haight-Ashbury district fell apart. He played music, studied meditation, tramped around India, ended up here.

"Back in those days there were so few of us in India that everywhere you went you were surrounded by people pointing and jabbering," he says. "But in Goa, where the Portuguese had been for 450 years, they were completely relaxed about foreigners, and they let us get on with our own thing without bothering us at all."

Goa Gill reminds one what Goa used to be all about. People like him have been arriving in Goa for 30 years, finding something intensely sympathetic in its beauty, its hybrid culture, its relaxed, Latin attitude to pleasure; finding it easy to stay put and become part of the weave and the warp. (Goa Gill's contribution, he claims, is to have been the inventor of the music known as Goa Trance.)

Mass package tourism has blasted a hole in Goa's charm: now the place is crawling with people who have come here for no reason other than that it is cheap. And now a brutal police initiative in the service of a cruelly rigid law threatens to kill off the charm altogether.

SHAPE OF ARTS TO COME

NO 3: DANCE - DAVID BINTLEY

A prospect with knobs on

The artistic director of Birmingham Royal Ballet believes the future of ballet lies in changing people's attitudes about what ballet can and should be. And where it should be too. By John Percival

Sitting in his office backstage at the Birmingham Hippodrome, David Bintley talks quietly, thoughtfully, convincingly. There can be no doubt that he is a man in the right place at the right time. In three years since becoming artistic director of Birmingham Royal Ballet he has brought what was already a very respectable troupe to be Britain's best ballet company: the liveliest repertoire, the highest number of new works, excellent dancers, enthusiastic audiences.

But he wants a lot more yet: no less than to alter the whole way the possibilities of ballet are perceived in this country. "We've got to make it more serious, bring a change in people's mental attitudes," he says. Most people, he knows, take a narrow, blinkered view of what ballet can and should be.

During his career (he is 41, and was already active in dance from his early teens) he has seen people writing off ballet as a spent force when modern dance arrived to attract much of the media interest and create a new audience of young people. But now, he reckons, there is greater discernment, people can spot clichés in some modern dance too. "We have to show we can affect that younger audience, can deal with subjects and themes that have an appeal to them."

He is delighted to be doing this from a base away from the London centred view of things. "The years coming up are going to be the best time for these cities - Birmingham, Manchester, Leeds. I never felt I was part of a community in London, and it's a pity not to be where you can shape what happens." In Birmingham he is closely involved in many other activities: working at the Repertory Theatre on a new production of *Pajama Game*; serving on a panel to choose public art as part of the Broad Street development; forming links with a local chorus for his *Carmine Burana* and with the University of Central England's theatre design school to work with the company's new choreographers.

Also, he says proudly, he has been in half the city's schools as part of BRB's education programme. "Education is one thing the city asked for when they invited



For David Bintley, it's all about accessibility: "We don't just want white middle-class little girls who go to ballet classes"

Kalpesh Lathigra

us here - and it's happening, with knobs on." Unlike the Royal Opera House manager who notoriously spoke of just paying lip-service to education, he obviously loves it.

And when asked what development he would most like to see within ballet generally, his immediate answer is "I think I would like to see teaching get better at every level across the country. We've got to find a better and more efficient way of teaching, and of finding kids to teach. We don't just want white middle-class little girls who go to ballet classes. We need to make it more acceptable to people and extend participation at all levels. That's the way you're going to attract talent - future choreographers as well as dancers."

He reckons he has now got BRB "more or less where I want it to be. There are sixty dancers,

which is enough for big ambitious productions but not too many for this friendly, all-family atmosphere which the company has always had. That's something rare. When I audition people, I never say 'She'll make a useful corps de ballet dancer'. I try to assess the most interesting and versatile dancers I can, and develop them

arts
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so they know talent, enthusiasm and hard work will be rewarded."

He works himself pretty hard too: this year he is putting on three one-act ballets of his own and collaborating with Galina Samsova on a new production of the old classic *Giselle*, while also busy preparing for his biggest venture yet: a

ballet about King Arthur that will occupy two full evenings. He explains this unprecedented length with the simple question, how can you tell that story in less? Set for premiere next year, this involves the same collaborators for music and design as his acclaimed *Eduard II*.

But BRB is certainly not going to become a one-man show under Bintley. This year he is acquiring works by two of the best-known international choreographers, Twyla Tharp and William Forsythe. "I want them so that our audiences can see for themselves, and also for the sake of giving our dancers that experience. But in a way it's easy to get the big names, everyone knows who they are. I would like also to build a long-term relationship with some middle-range names. When Lila York does a bal-

let for us and goes back to tell people in New York this is a marvelous company, and Stanton Welch tells people the same in Australia, that's great for us."

That is in addition to the choreographic projects in which he gets dancers in the company to try their hand at choreography as a joint venture. Last year's Vivaldi *Four Seasons* was so successful that Victor Hochhauser (not noted for rash experiment) is presenting it at the Coliseum this summer with Bintley's *Carmine Burana*. "And I hope some of these dancers will develop to do their own independent works for the repertoire."

So is he neglecting the company's "heritage" ballets among all this activity? "We must always have great love and respect for the past," he says, and judging by the frequency with which the name of

Dame Ninette de Valois is on his lips, he is in no danger of forgetting the Royal Ballet's founder. In fact his reconstruction of her long-forgotten ballet from 1940, *The Prospect Before Us*, is one of the works BRB is bringing to Sadler's Wells next month.

Knowing Bintley's awareness of dance history, it is impossible to avoid thinking that an analogy with the Stuttgart Ballet must be in his mind: the way that company (from a city smaller than Birmingham) sprang to world fame on its first trans-atlantic trip under John Cranko's direction. And before I leave, he quotes something which Cranko's long-time ballerina Marcia Haydees wrote when she had become Cranko's successor as director: "Our past is not without significance, but the future is more important."

A dying fall

CLASSICAL
HAITINK/LPO: MAHLER
ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL
LONDON

I HAVE often asked myself what makes a really first-rate Mahler conductor. Temperament, that's for sure. Clear thinking, certainly. A thorough understanding of the *fin de siècle* is also very important. And I would imagine that a spot of shared biography helps, too. Witnessing Bernard Haitink conduct the London Philharmonic in Mahler's Ninth reminded me that the two men have at least two significant biographical facts in common: heart problems (hopefully put to rights in Haitink's case) and uncomfortable brushes with their respective opera houses. But while Mahler never lived to see his fifty-first birthday, Haitink approaches seventy in full command of his considerable interpretative gifts. He is a great musician in the truest sense of that much abused term, a man of sound artistic principles: patient, passionate, decisive and profoundly honest. To hear him chart Mahler's lengthy opening *Andante comodo* without undue mannerism or tiresome overstatement, is to appreciate afresh what is surely the century's finest single symphonic movement. Haitink and his players breathed the music's initial paragraphs with an uneasy calm, then made a ferocious beeline for the first fortissimo climax. The contrast was made all the more telling by Haitink's judicious timing.

Ferocity and respite alternated throughout the Symphony's first movement, with the choicest subtleties reserved, performance-wise, for its quietest orchestration. I think in particular of the bassoons, bass clarinet and muted horns; the perfectly paced timpani strokes; the myriad burblings among assorted woodwinds and the pleading lyricism of Mahler's string choirs.

The playing of the London Philharmonic had much to commend it, primarily in terms of the brass (horns in particular) and woodwinds. Just occasionally, I craved a fuller string tone and lighter overall ensemble; but the rhythmic thrust of Haitink's reading was never compromised. The Symphony's second movement is a blustery pot-pourri of Austrian-style dance tunes, cunningly crafted, and played on Saturday night with bluff humour. The LPO brass became a village band, though the softer-grained trio sections offered mellower food for thought. Mahler's churchish *Rondo Burleske* fired off at a dangerously fast tempo. The Orchestra held tight to the reins, slipping slightly every now and then but always maintaining the musical tension. The strings fared best in the haunting trio, but their finest moments were heard towards the close of the *Adagio*, music so sublime, so poignantly beautiful, that the players seemed reluctant to let it die. But die it did, as Haitink's left arm fell listlessly towards the score and the silence broke with appreciative applause.

ROB COWAN

The price of life on demons' island

It's possible to create a stage version of *Lord of the Flies* that isn't diminish Golding's innate fable of crash-landed schoolboys reverting to savagery on an idyllic island?

The author always maintained that the chief problem was rather a theatrical performance could depict the process boys becoming men. When

the RSC staged Nigel Williams' adaptation, they used a cast of youngsters. In Marcus Romer's new production, the schoolboys are played, with shades of Dennis Potter's *Blue Remembered Hills*, by professional adult actors. Which approach works best?

A novel is free to play tricks with what you see in your

mind's eye, a knack necessary with a book like *Lord of the Flies* where the characters' interior life, lurching into adulthood, begins to belie outward appearances. On stage, though, seeing is believing (and vice versa) and Romer's visceral production proves it is easier to incarnate the sense that the child is father of the man when you have men impersonating children.

Using a sound score that unsettlingly mixes heartbeats, primitive pantheons, electronic radio crackles, the soft crash of breakers, and the thump of techno music, the production also ingeniously solves the problem of how to evoke the tropical island visually. The action is staged in the wrecked chrome skeleton of the plane in which the boys crash-landed; its bulk and queasily see-sawing

THEATRE
LORD OF THE FLIES
LYRIC HAMMERSMITH
LONDON

wings provide a sort of morbid playground monologue for the cliffs and terrain on which the bloodstaining pig hunt, the chases, the tribal dances and the toppling death of Piggy are thrillingly choreographed.

By not overdoing the prissy, pukka aspects of Golding's *Fifties* schoolboys, the production valuably prevents its young audiences from dismissing them as an exotic species of no relevance. There are vivid individual performances, especially from Danny Nutt whose sneering, bullying, proto-Fascist, Jack, is like a study in demonic possession.

Pilot Theatre Company reveal in the programme that when the first reports of killings by children hit the headlines, *Lord of the Flies* became, for them, "the project to work on, because of the need to raise some of the issues involved". It is here that my qualms about Golding's book surface. The wildest, most pointed objection to it was made by D J Enright who referred to its "soothing charm" - by which he meant that invoking original sin can be a way of shelving society's own culpability. It's very convenient, say, to demonise the child murderers of James Bulger. Perhaps alongside *Lord of the Flies*, schools could encourage teenagers to read *As If*, Blake Morrison's admirably sensitive examination of the Bulger affair.

PAUL TAYLOR

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24 hours



Verdi

THIS WAS THE WEEK THAT WAS

Today On this day in 1858 Mendelssohn's "Wedding March" had its first performance. It celebrated the walking down the aisle of Victoria (daughter of the Queen) and Prince Frederick of Prussia. Somewhat inauspiciously, their first child grew up to be the Kaiser.

Tomorrow In 1907 there was an absolute riot at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin, not on stage, but in an audience furious at the "foul language" of J M Synge's *Playboy of the Western World*. The riots continued in the theatre - but so did the show, thanks to a strong police presence. (Darling, your Garda are wonderful!)

Wednesday Verdi died in 1901 at a ripe old 87. As well as composing, he for a time had a day job as a member of the first Italian Parliament, although he never set his experiences to music (*Il Ponto del Ordore?*).

Thursday The late, and much lamented Ronnie Scott was born in 1927; he was much applauded for his saxophone, his club and his gloomy request to an unresponsive audience: "Let's all hold hands and try to contact the living!"

Friday At the first children's art competition in 1755, Dick Cosway won the under-14 prize, the then enormous sum of £15. He

later became a member of the Royal Academy.

Saturday Stanley Holloway died in 1982. Although his comic monologues were delivered in a Lancashire accent, he was in fact a Londoner and is famed for playing the Cockney bin-emptier in *My Fair Lady*.

Sunday In 1899 Egyptian archaeologists unearthed five life-sized Pharaonic statues at the Temple of Luxor. These dated back to 1470BC, which meant a waste of the last three-and-a-half millennia when they could have been bringing in easy money to visitors at nine quid a throw.

JUNATHAN SALE



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Talk Radio and The Independent are flying 40 pairs of winners to New York for a weekend in March in our 'Talk to New York' Competition. Throughout February there are 2 New York Weekends to be won every weekday.

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...and myself what makes
...the elderly enjoy the
...same music as their grand-
...children. Or when grown
...men in their fifties make
...comments like "Boyzone!"
...Now that's the single of the
...year! No contest! as was recently
...overheard on licensed premises.
...The demise of traditional light
...entertainment shows, there is a
...shortage of work for hoovers who can
...it in and mime at the same time, so
...it is no surprise that boybands are
...cluttering the hit parade, each one
...largely indistinguishable from the
...last, and so much a part of wonder-
...ful New Britain that the time has
...come to honour the genre with a
...comedy series. Though as industry
...rumour has it that the average age
...of *Smash Hits* readers is now seven
...or eight, down five years in half a
...decade, it may be on too late for
...some of its target audience.

They're everywhere. From Take That to 911, boybands have become the British pop institution of the decade. So, *Boyz Unlimited*, Channel 4's new boyband spoof is long overdue. Mind you, how do you parody a genre that's already parodying itself? By Steve Jelbert

Boys will be boybands

It is a fallow period for pop when the elderly enjoy the same music as their grandchildren. Or when grown men in their fifties make comments like "Boyzone!" Now that's the single of the year! No contest! as was recently overheard on licensed premises. The demise of traditional light entertainment shows, there is a shortage of work for hoovers who can it in and mime at the same time, so it is no surprise that boybands are cluttering the hit parade, each one largely indistinguishable from the last, and so much a part of wonderful New Britain that the time has come to honour the genre with a comedy series. Though as industry rumour has it that the average age of *Smash Hits* readers is now seven or eight, down five years in half a decade, it may be on too late for some of its target audience.

It is not the first time anyone has attempted to make comedy capital out of the idea - BBC1 sitcom *Point 4 Children* once featured the teenage son in a boyband called Boyband, appropriately enough. But the inherent absurdity of the genre almost defies parody. Take Osman's search for the most inappropriate song for the group to perform. He felt that Dr Hook's gruesomely sultry "A Little Bit More" ("when your body's had enough of me and you're layin' flat out on the floor") was just too tasteless for a pre-pubescent audience, and thus ideal for comic purposes. But 911 have a version of the song currently in the charts. "Ours is better," states Osman. He won't, however, be drawn into criti-

Boyzone always admitted to a talent deficit but were canny enough to have a go

cising the real thing. "I can't be rude about boybands - they're reviewing our show for all the papers," he says. By Worth's account, his former band never quite fitted the template. "You have to take it with a pinch of salt. We'd be backstage drinking and smoking while other boybands were pumping themselves up. There'd be people walking around with their shirts off until the last minute," he says, recalling his days on package tours. "We had gym memberships and never went," he shrugs, a proffered cigarette in hand. The One knocked it on the head when the only offer of a contract came from a German company. Worth then worked in a video store to pay the bills.

hardly new. Such scams have an honourable history. Simon Napier-Bell, Sixties manager and producer, and later Wham!'s earthly representative, admits in his hilarious, scurrilous autobiography *You Don't Have To Say You Love Me*, to creating acts such as Fresh, Plus, Brut, Bang, Splash and Pudding (I am not making this up) solely to take advances from gullible record companies. A publicity shot for one of these fictitious groups consisted of Napier-Bell's chauffeur, "a man who was cleaning the staircase", and business partner Ray Singer's wife wearing a false moustache.

From the earliest days of British pop, when Reg Smith and Ron Wycherley were re-christened Marty Wilde and Billy Fury by proto-savagely Larry Parnes (wonderfully spoofed in *Boyz Unlimited*), to the invention and sale of the Monkees to American TV as a homegrown riposte to the Beatles, young men have naively trusted their elders.

Ultimately, it's good business. A few years ago, Boston's gory New Kids On The Block were MCAs most profitable act. The label didn't actually release their records - they just held their merchandising rights. Boyzone, whose hilarious debut on Gay Byrne's *Late Late Show* was shown again recently on *Before They Were Famous*, happily admitted to a severe talent deficit, but were canny enough to see that anyone could have a go. Soon their native Dublin saw a boyband explosion - every school had at least one group of hopefuls. Once they body-popped, now they perfect elaborate dance routines.

The next logical step is a return to the theatre for all those singer/actors. Yes, *Boyband* is a musical telling the story of a... well, you get the idea, scheduled to open in the



Boyz Unlimited, Channel 4's spoof boyband: pop-cultural perfection will be achieved if one of their songs is a hit in the real charts

West End in May. Producer Adam Spiegel knows his audience. "This is the West End. There has to be room for an upbeat ending," he says, but he's aware of the potential for drama. "What's particularly interesting about boybands is that they're ill-prepared for success, but hungry for it."

Damien Flood, cast as a band member, is just delighted to get the role. Something of a veteran, he toured as a solo artist with the likes of Boyzone. "This is my last chance to do a show of this genre. I'm 26," he points out. "There will be a record deal in our contracts. They'll release depending on how it goes."

With material from the likes of Conor Reeves, we could see a fake band played by actors, having real hits in the real world. Perfect pop. And if it doesn't work out, there's always straight theatre. Or PR - Brother Beyond's Carl Fish is oow head of press at Columbia records. Or even catering - flashy restaurant

Denim is apparently backed by a couple of ex-teen sensations. And to think that a member of the Yardbirds once quit, complaining: "I'm too old at 23 for all those screaming kids leaping about."

'Boyz Unlimited' starts on Channel 4 on 6 February

PARENTS! We need your guidance



Linda McCartney's new single, *The Light Comes From Within*, has been given a 'parental guidance' sticker, warning of its 'explicit lyrics'.

Your children need your guidance on this matter. It is your Parental Duty to listen to this record and to decide once and for all if you think your children will be morally corrupted by the line in the song which contains the 'explicit lyric':

"you say I'm simple, you say I'm a hick-
you're f***ing no-one, you stupid d***"

Should you decide that your children must not hear this record we would be grateful for your wisdom and good sense and will put our fingers in our ears whenever we hear it played. If, on the other hand, you feel that no harm will come to your children by being exposed to this song, give the guidance so sorely needed and tell them it's OK to do so.

**Do your duty!
Do not neglect your children's well being.
You must act now!**

Listen to this record and give us your Parental Guidance. Thank you for your attention on this vital matter.

P.S. By the way, young people, we know you don't listen to them anyway.

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NETWORK

Who needs to go out clubbing when you have a computer, an Internet connection and a good sound system? Mark Chadbourne reports

House party

DODGY MUSIC, no water, some E'd up idiot dancing like a hippopotamus with gout. The hardships facing the average clubber are many. But having your wild night of hedonism disrupted by your mum's bridge party is not normally at the top of the list. The latest development in the club world could, however, make that terrifying proposition a regular occurrence. Welcome to Net Clubbing, a concept which, at first glance, suggests it was thought up by brains overcooked by too much dancing and not enough liquid intake.

Webcasts – audio broadcasts over the web – delivered direct from a top venue into your own PC or Mac at home is the latest boom area in a club world increasingly driven by the desperate search for something new. With your machine hooked into a state-of-the-art sound system you can even re-create that nausea-inducing bass rumble and set off your neighbour's car alarm. In effect, your front room – or office – “becomes” the club.

The advantages are obvious: no trouble getting to the bar/toilets/on to the dance floor; no beetle-browed bouncers; you can choose the people you want to dance with. The downside: it's your home.

The whole point of clubbing would seem to be that you go to a “club”. The heady atmosphere fired by hundreds of people having the time of their lives, the noise, the bustle, the sensory overload, all appear as

vital as the music itself. Yet in the last three years, club attendance has fallen sharply. Obviously, not everyone is enamoured of the oppressive heat, smoke and claustrophobic presence of too many strangers.

The main proponents of Net Clubbing argue that it's actually a complementary activity, rather than something designed to turn the social-minded clubber into a cocoon. Anne Nefet, 25, a regular clubber and DJ, claims it's one of the most positive developments to hit the club world in years.

“The attractions are pretty obvious,” she says. “If you haven't been to a club before you can check out what the music is like. There are also archives of gigs, so if you've got a CD burner you can download a whole CD's worth of music. To be honest, it's the music that takes me to clubs. I find the social aspects pretty annoying.”

“As the technical side improves, this will get bigger and bigger. At the moment it uses Real Audio, so it's more in tune with the PC. I have a Mac and I've had some problems configuring it. But advances are being made all the time. Soon you'll be able to shoot in and out of various worlds and various stations like you would tuning across a radio.”

“The big thing for me will be lots of freedom and less regulation and less censorship.”

For Mark Nicholson, 25, a musician, the main advantage seems to



Enthusiasts go net clubbing at Sprawl at the Global Cafe

Neville Elder

be the clubber's nirvana of the venue that never closes. “There's always something in the world going on,” he says. “Whenever you feel like it, whatever time of the night or day, you can have a browse. The other thing is that, if you can't get to a club one night, you can still check out the music by going to the archive.”

Matt Atkins, also 25 and a musician, champions the egalitarian aspects of Net Clubbing. The elitism of some of London's clubs is endemic, and if you live in rural areas

it's even easier to feel out of the loop of coolness. But the netcasts bring a taste of that world into anyone's home. “Plus, by going round to friends' houses to check it out, you still get the social side,” he says.

One of the first clubs to make regular netcasts is Sprawl, at the Global Cafe in Sobo's Golden Square. It also webcasts its blend of electronic, experimental, yet beat-orientated music. Douglas Benford and Iris Garrelds, both techno-smart and understand the advantages and lim-

itations of the medium, run Sprawl. “I disagree with the whole concept of clubbing in your home,” Benford says. “Clubbing is a social thing. I wouldn't want to see it replace going to a club as an activity.”

“But, for whatever reason, there are always people who can't get to the club,” he says. “The webcasts are a good showcase for our music. Now we can reach anybody in the world, but we have a particular following in the US where people tune in like they're listening to a radio.”

Benford is thinking about where the technology will take his club in the future. There's no reason why a webcast linked into the right sound systems couldn't have Sprawl appearing at numerous venues all over the globe simultaneously.

The Global Cafe, one of London's Internet cafes, already has a lucrative sideline in webcasts and is constantly breaking into new areas. Apart from regular webcasts covering the diversity of the club scene, it has also put out a documentary

event on Gulf War syndrome, a Hewlett Packard corporate webcast and a health authorities drug information webcast.

For the committed clubber, the lure of the venue will always be unshakeable. But for anyone else, the background to the perfect club atmosphere could increasingly be net curtains and three flying ducks on the wall.

Global Cafe: gold.globalcafe.co.uk
Sprawl: www.dfuse.com/sprawl

MY TECHNOLOGY

If it crashes, the bang goes out of our act

Steve McNicholas, director of *Stomp*, tells how his troupe's low-tech dance performances depend on an Apple PowerBook



Steve McNicholas with the all-important PowerBook

Andrew Hasson

WHEN I stroll in with a PowerBook, people are always a little bit surprised it can convey our work. After all, in some respects, our show is anti-technology – archaic objects are used as instruments and the show uses none. But behind the scenes is the PowerBook, planning, organising and making *Stomp* very multimedia.

We started out as a bit of a cottage industry. Initially, we worked with touring companies, so wherever we were geographically, I needed to run our business. A mobile office was the only feasible arrangement. Plus, at the beginning, I did everything: the accounts, as well as the publicity, photography and directing the show. This could all be done from one source – the PowerBook.

Over the years, the company has grown: we have five companies around the world and do a lot of filming. So although I don't do accounts or administration and don't need a mobile office as such, I use the PowerBook as a mobile studio. I keep in touch with all the companies and aspects of the show through e-mail contact with performers and company managers.

The creative potential of the PowerBook is very important. For instance, when we are shooting films or commercials, storyboard work is done on the PowerBook. I am trying out a program at the moment called StoryBoard Artist, but previously I have made a storyboard collage myself. That is the only time I have used a program that works a specific purpose.

I haven't yet found a program to do everything I want. In the past I have yoked programs together, perhaps Pho-

toshop and Videoshop, anything to get where I want.

One classic use is in shooting a commercial. I go on location with a Nikon F900 digital camera. Every conceivable angle is then downloaded on the computer. But we might also do some drawings, either drawing direct on to the computer or scanning in images. Alternatively, if we need to build something around the location, I could construct a 3-D view on the computer. So storyboards are often a collage of digital photography and art pad work.

The PowerBook is basically our visual tool. But it also helps with the music. Everything we do is worked to a rhythm, so we might record a basic rhythm on to the PowerBook and then overlay images. It cuts down on time. When deciding possible ways to shoot, we can quickly digitise the shots, do some edits and check how the cuts work and the flow of movement. And we can play it back, for instance, when doing a presentation.

I have always trained myself how to use the technology. I don't go into shops – you tend not to get a great deal of help – so

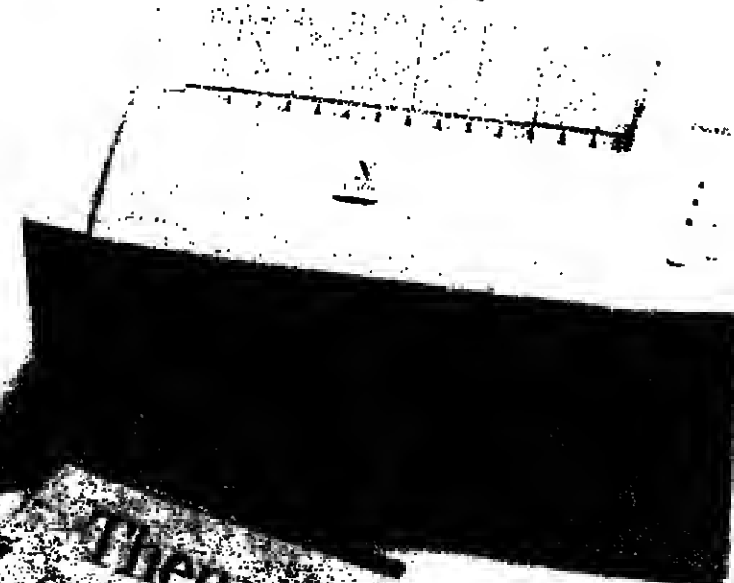
information tends to come from reading a magazine, or the Internet is particularly helpful when searching for something specific. My enthusiasm for computer technology is down to using a music sequencer; it opened my eyes to the computer as a useful tool with creative possibilities.

A lot of people have a computer block. When we walk in with the PowerBook, clients are always amazed at what we do. They say they didn't know what could be done, which really surprises me. I am frustrated by the attitude that computers are only for smart or clever people when they are just tools to be used. I am not a computer technician or interested in bytes, bits and programming, but it helps me write or create. *Stomp* couldn't exist without this technology. What we do now would be a nightmare without the PowerBook.

INTERVIEW BY JENNIFER RODGER

Stomp embark on their first-ever UK tour on 26 January at Chichester Festival Theatre (01243 781 312). For more details visit www.stomp.co.uk

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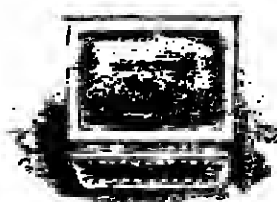
BYTES

ANDY OLDFIELD

INTEL ANNOUNCED last week that it is working with RSA Data Security on new technologies that will allow it to build Pentium III chips with support for security and e-commerce built in. A unique ID and a random number generator are planned to boost efficiency and data encryption.

"We're entering an age where e-commerce transactions will be conducted on a global network consisting of a billion connected PCs and hundreds of millions of servers. These transactions must be secure," said Michael Glancy, general manager of Intel's platform security division. "Products from Intel and RSA that incorporate new security technologies will help ensure that the development of secure applications continues at a rapid pace."

As well as aiding e-commerce the technology would help Intel crack down on the trade in over-clocked processors where a 266MHz chip can be tweaked to run at 400MHz and sold for a premium. Some analysts, however, are concerned that the new features raise privacy issues, as they allow users to be tracked while they surf the Net. Intel is thought to be working on a software patch to turn off the ID feature.



from 8 May 1998, which said IE was "fundamentally not compelling... not differentiated" from Netscape's browser. Schmalensee agreed, undercutting Microsoft's claims that its \$500m (£310m) research spending had produced a better product. He also acknowledged that the integration of products would worry Netscape, and that Microsoft had spent money to induce service providers to use IE rather than Netscape Navigator, buying out their contracts with Netscape.

Schmalensee maintained, however, that Microsoft was not a monopolist and couldn't restrict distribution of competing computer software. Using economics arguments, he outlined a case based on pricing suggesting that if Microsoft was indeed a monopolist it would be charging \$500 to \$2,000 for a copy of Windows 98, instead of selling it to computer makers at about \$50.

A RECORD for cracking the 56-bit Data Encryption Standard (DES) algorithm was set last week in a joint effort between the Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF) and Distributed.Net. An encrypted message was uncovered in 22 hours 15 minutes, winning the team \$10,000 (£5,200) from RSA Data Security, an organisation that sponsors encryption-breaking challenges as part of its lobbying to allow the unfettered export of strong encryption software from the United States.

The previous record of 56 hours was set last July by EFF using a specially built computer, Deep Crack. This time a network of 100,000 PCs on the Internet was used. "When designing secure systems and infrastructure for society, listen to cryptographers, not to politicians," John Gilmore, EFF co-founder, said. He added that the record should be a warning to anyone who relies on 56-bit keys to keep data secure.

"DES was a very strong algorithm," Jim Bidez, RSA president, said. "But any algorithm, any key size, will eventually run out of life. DES has served well over the last 23 or 24 years."

THE MICROSOFT trial in Washington continued last week with Microsoft's first witness, the MIT economist Richard Schmalensee, defending the company's decision to integrate the Internet Explorer browser into its operating systems and rejecting Department of Justice (DOJ) accusations that the decision had harmed consumers by limiting choice.

DOJ lawyer David Boies produced an internal Microsoft marketing report

NETWORK SOLUTIONS Inc, the body that has held a US government monopoly on assigning top-level domain names, had difficulties in registering new names last week. Instead of a matter of hours, the company's software took days to process new applications. Some customers say their requests were lost, resulting in other people registering their domains.

NSI, which last year registered 1.9 million addresses - almost double that of the previous year - said problems were due to record numbers of registrations and a series of fraudulent e-mail registrations since the New Year, overloading the system. Competitors fear that the problems will delay NSI's ability to make its database available in March as part of the plan to cede its authority when its contract to assign domain names expires.

IN WASHINGTON last week, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) said it would delay until 9 March the administrative hearing due next month of charges against Intel. Lawyers from both sides requested extra time to prepare their cases and pre-trial depositions.

Intel, which makes four out of five processors found on desktop PCs, is alleged to have abused its dominant position in the computer chip market by withholding technical information from three competitors - Compaq, Digital and Intergraph - who had sued it for patent infringement. In preparing its case the FTC spent a year and a half interviewing other Intel rivals, such as AMD and National Semi-conductor, implying that is considering a wider anti-trust action.



Bunker mentality: inside the former RAF bunker in Kent, where Adam Laurie plans to house data storage hardware and servers

John Voos

E-commerce joins the underground economy

Stephen McLaren meets the head of AL Digital, an information technology company that is taking the concept of secure servers and data protection to a new level

You can tell AL Digital is keen on data security. While I am waiting to be ushered into the bowels of its new data centre, 300ft underground in a recently converted RAF command bunker in Kent, the on-site PCs are taking part in a global cryptography competition. AL Digital's computers were participating in the DES III Challenge, which is an attempt to break the latest 56-bit cryptography standards in record time (see Bytes, left). The aim of this exercise - according to Adam Laurie, AL Digital's owner - was to prove that the level of encryption the US government believes is strong enough for individuals is anything but. In the end, a rival effort using a specially-built supercomputer broke the code in 22 hours and won its operators \$10,000.

AL Digital runs on a strong streak of paranoia about the vulnerability of data to hostile eyes, whether they belong to hackers, terrorists, government or the police. Hence Laurie doesn't want his face identified in the photographs, and his prized possession is an everything-proof bunker that he envisages will become a repository for data belonging to similarly paranoid business-

es, such as banks and insurance companies.

As we toured the cold grey concrete corridors, only occasionally brightened by leftover RAF "Do Not..." banners, Laurie explained his vision.

"We do a lot of security-based work for clients and we noticed how physically insecure many companies' servers were," he said. "So we started looking for a facilities-managed site to operate for clients, and when this came on the market we thought, bingo!"

"It's designed exactly for the purpose we are putting it to, which is securely housing computers, and built to a spec you could never achieve in the commercial world. To build one above ground from scratch would cost around £100m."

So if you are a suitably-paranoid entrepreneur with data-critical servers needing a good home, what do you get for your money? Well, for about £15,000 a server you get an environment which is protected by an electric fence, security guards, CCTV, bomb-proof doors, decontamination units and concrete walls five metres thick. Diesel generators and banks of batteries keep the whole facility running independently of what is going on in the outside

'No terrorist organisation has bombs big enough to cause damage to the blast doors here'

world. When Laurie says he would recruit armed guards, if allowed, you believe him, though I do feel obliged to suggest a degree of overkill.

"Well, the IRA bomb in the City caused extensive damage to banks and data centres and presumably it was placed there for that very reason. Thankfully no terrorist organisation has bombs big enough to cause damage to the blast doors

means that only a very basic level of supervisory staff needs to be around at any one time, adding to the noticeably spooky atmosphere in the maze of strip-lit concrete.

"It's very spooky at night and you keep thinking what it must have been like when it was humming away 24 hours a day, monitoring possible nuclear attacks. Some people who've come round since we bought it a few months ago, haven't been able to make it past the blast doors because it feels too oppressive."

AL Digital, however, seems to thrive in the underground: as well as running the Internet pirate radio station Interface, it is the author of Apache SSL Open Source software that enables strong encryption to be added to Apache servers, which are the most numerous on the Web. This means that credit card payments made via such servers are protected by 128-bit encryption, which has yet to be cracked even by the most powerful supercomputer.

Indeed, it is their championing of strong cryptography which says more about AL Digital's attitude to data security than even the physical security of their new abode.

"The US government says 56-bit encryption is good enough for the public, we say. 'No it's not, watch

we've cracked it", Laurie says. "One of the reasons e-commerce is still poised to take off is because the tools to keep data secure are not strong enough. I believe it would take off massively if crypto restrictions were removed."

Although much of what the company is railing against originates in Washington, the Labour Government's Electronic Commerce Bill - which was in Cabinet discussion last week - may be a source of future problems for Adam Laurie and his company. The Government is expected to put restrictions on those companies offering cryptography services which don't make the code-breaking keys available to authorities on demand. Adam Laurie's bunker may be 300ft under, but even that may not be deep enough to avoid the long arms of such a law.

As yet, the deep vaults remain relatively empty, awaiting the expected hordes of businesses which, Laurie hopes, will come to realise that in the network economy, data has exactly the same value as cold hard cash. If bank vaults are deemed the necessary storage arrangements for money then perhaps such bunkers are indeed the logical place to store all those beige boxes which hold our credit card numbers.

Windows of opportunity

Microsoft is facing a refund rebellion. Charles Arthur reports

DO YOU ever read the small print on the licence that comes with software? Geoffrey Bennett did, and achieved something amazing: he discovered the cost of a bundled copy of Microsoft Windows is £42.80.

A few judges and witnesses in Washington have heard Microsoft reveal those figures, in sessions closed to the public. Mr Bennett did it the hard way: he read his Windows End User Licence Agreement (EULA). Based on that he demanded, and obtained, a refund of £42.80 (£42.80), not using the operating system. Was it worth it? "It's the principle of the thing," he notes.

Bennett, a computer systems manager for an Australian Web design and publishing company, decided that he wanted a Toshiba notebook. But, being a fan of Linux, the increasingly popular open source operating system, he didn't want to pay for the Windows 95 that came with it.

But Toshiba refused to sell him a notebook without Windows, so Bennett bought one, but before

turning it on, he read the EULA, which included two key sentences: "If you do not agree to the terms of this EULA, PC Manufacturer and Microsoft are unwilling to license the SOFTWARE PRODUCT (Microsoft's capitals) to you. In such event, you may not use or copy the SOFTWARE PRODUCT, and you should promptly contact PC Manufacturer for

instructions on return of the unused product(s) for a refund." So the first time he turned it on, he booted from a Linux floppy and deleted the Windows partition on the disk. Hence, he had never used Windows. Now, he wanted his refund.

Toshiba Australia argued that this was a "boilerplate" EULA (which it evidently is). It still covers Windows, pointed out Bennett. Toshiba suggest-

ed he give back the whole machine. "No, I just want the refund on Windows, like the EULA says," he replied. Toshiba argued that it couldn't refund him because it didn't have any mechanism to claim a refund from Microsoft. Not my problem, pointed out Bennett.

Toshiba remained stolid. The Small Claims Court beckoned - until Bennett looked

again at the possibility of returning the whole computer, as Toshiba had earlier suggested. By this time, two months after the original purchase, his model was discontinued and the upgraded replacement was £700 cheaper. "They [Toshiba] were effectively offering me £700 and a notebook upgrade," notes Bennett. He decided to pursue that option.

The Toshiba reseller, how-

ever, balked at this and got on to Toshiba - which suddenly got back to Bennett offering a refund for Windows. Three months after the saga began, Toshiba produced a cheque.

It may have been a matter of principle for Geoffrey Bennett, but it is a principle others are turning into a movement.

Linux users in California are organising a "Windows Refund Day" on 15 February, when they will converge on Microsoft's offices with Windows disks, manuals and certificates of authenticity to seek their refunds.

While it's doubtful that Bill Gates will get his cheque book out, expect to see PCs with Linux installed coming on the market soon.

Geoffrey Bennett's whole saga (including letters) is on-line at www.netcraft.com.au/geoffrey/toshiba.html

* Instructions on how to go about getting a refund from Microsoft can be found on the Windows Refund Center site at www.linuxsmall.com/refund

WEBSITES

BILL PANNIFER

Adbusters

adbusters.org
These veteran "culture jammers" launched their anti-corporate crusade almost a decade ago, with the aim of turning our mass media away from consumerism and towards social awareness. The Canadian-based Media Foundation organises an annual Buy Nothing Day, and other truly heretical stunts. Selections from its print magazine are available here, and also video clips of its own TV commercials, some of which have been banned or refused, not only by US networks but UK advertising watchdogs. An impressive gallery of parody advertisements includes a Joe Camel send-up called "Joe Chemo" and a Marlboro ad featuring a riderless horse in a wintry graveyard.

Hocus Focus
www.hocusfocus.org
More jamming-in-action in this Situationist-inspired attack on Apple's "Think

Different" marketing campaign. The Apple promotion makes use of nonconformist or counter-cultural icons such as Gandhi, Miles Davis and John Lennon, a move which, according to the site, corrupts these "vessels of psychic energy" and turns them into co-opted product-pushers. So this underground artists' action group either modifies or creates its own versions of the posters for unauthorised display in key locations. Hocus Focus is particularly enraged by the campaign's use of the Dalai Lama, since it claims Apple removed his image to appease the Chinese market. He now bears the text "Marketing is censorship".

Radiorworld
www.radiorworld.net
This ambitious-sounding and highly commercial mix of netcasting and virtual worlds technology offers what it calls a "totally immersive [sic] environment". Paying users who



have downloaded the software (no easy feat last week) can apparently travel from city to city in avatar form on something called the "Radio World bullet train".

While doing so they can listen to local radio stations and visit their online suites for special celebrity events. Participating stations get a share of revenue from new subscribers to the site, as well as, they hope, extra advertising income. Punters pay £3 per month to inhabit customised avatars with a choice of "hundreds of heads" and the ability to hold hands and kiss while grooving to the latest cybersounds.

Patron Saints

Patronage Index
members.xoom.com/sjs/patron.htm
Today's saint, according to the online calendar, is the Apostle Paul, but this site also gives details of more marginal players, including those relegated to local status or listed under "cult suppressed" after the Church went through the files in 1969. Here may be found Barbara, one-time saint of powder magazines and arsenals, and Catherine, patron of philosophers and knife grinders. There are saints for accountants and yachtsmen, saints against abdominal pains and whooping cough, some 679 of them in all, under a thousand topic headings which offer the chance to find the right one for your occupation or condition. The whole impressively researched production is a lay effort by a Catholic convert living in Kentucky. He says: "I'm just a guy in the pews."

14/APPOINTMENTS

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To obtain an application package and access details for disabled applicants please contact The School Office, Open University Business School, Walton Hall, Milton Keynes MK7 6AA or telephone Milton Keynes (01908) 652965, Fax (01908) 655898, or e-mail: OUBS-Recruitment@open.ac.uk. Visit our website at <http://www.open.ac.uk>

Closing date for applications: 19 February 1999.

Interviews will be held on 26 March 1999.

Disabled applicants whose skills and experience meet the requirements of the job will be interviewed. Please let us know if you need your copy of the further particulars in large print, on computer disk, or on audio cassette tape. Hearing impaired persons may make enquiries on Milton Keynes (01908) 654901 (Minicom answerphone).

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Applications to include up to date CV, and covering letter to Human Resources Officer (R&T), The Royal British Legion, All Hall Lane, Loughborough LE11 3YU. Closing date 28 February 1999. Selected candidates will be contacted within two weeks of the closing date.

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NEW FILMS

BULWORTH (18)
Director: Warren Beatty
Starring: Warren Beatty, Halle Berry
Dog-tired and disillusioned at the end of an election campaign, woolly liberal senator Jay Bulworth (Beatty) turns suicidal loose-cannon; lifting the lid on US politics, hanging out in the hood and delivering his speeches in abrasive rap stylings. Beatty's *Bulworth* is a blast: crude and cutesy on occasion, but genuinely audacious and committed, saving a corroded democratic system in a way that few mainstream Hollywood films (and *Bulworth* is bankrolled by Murdoch's Fox Studios) would dare to do. At an age when he might be forgiven for resting on his laurels, Beatty's freewheeling, heart-on-sleeve romp puts him abruptly back in film's front rank. *West End: Clapham Picture House, Curzon Soho, Notting Hill Coronet, Odeon Kensington, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street, Screen on the Green, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Haymarket, Warner Village West End*

CLASS TRIP (LA CLASSE DE NEIGE) (15)
Director: Claude Miller
Starring: Clement Van Den Bergh, Francois Roy Pity poor Nicolas (Van Den Bergh), bed-wetting schoolboy fantasist with few friends and a domineering dad in Francois Roy's prosthetic-limb salesman, spirited off on a school skiing trip, the nipper starts letting his own dark imaginings run away with him, as Miller's pungent child's-eye psycho-drama switches nervously between stark naturalism and lurid dream sequences. Actually, there's a lot to admire in the tense, smouldering *Class Trip*. The trouble is, Miller gets over-fussy; he keeps messing with the mood, keeps letting air in to the pressure-cooker. And you can spot the ending a mile off. *West End: ABC Shaftesbury Avenue Repertory, Cine Lumiere*

54 (15)
Director: Mark Christopher
Starring: Mike Myers, Ryan Phillippe
Christopher's retro-trip through the heyday of New York's Studio 54 boasts a glitterball turn from Myers (as club boss Steve Rubell), but not a whole lot else. What we have here is the luckiest hanger-on to Boogie Nights and *The Last Days*

of Disco's leading lights: a garbled, under-developed run-through of dance-floor chic as Ryan Phillippe's colourless busboy falls in with the beautiful folk (Salma Hayek and Neve Campbell) and learns the downside of life in the fast lane. Tatty stuff, all told. *West End: Odeon Camden Town, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Haymarket, Warner Village West End Local, Acton Park Royal, Warner Village, Dagenham Warner Village, Edmonton Lee Valley UCI 12, Harrow Warner Village, Holloway Odeon, Neuham Showcase*

HILARY AND JACKIE (15)
Director: Amand Tucker
Starring: Emily Watson, Rachel Griffiths
Full-throttle playing from Rachel Griffiths and Emily Watson sustains Tucker's warts-and-all biopic of the Du Pre sisters, Hilary (shy, married flautist) and Jacqueline (world-famous cellist). Sibling rivalries, a menage a trois and terminal illness are all carefully navigated by Tucker's finely-wrought direction, though it's as an acting showcase that Hilary and Jackie really shine. *West End: Barbican Screen, Chelsea Cinema, Clapham Picture House, Curzon Mayfair, Curzon Soho, Gate Notting Hill, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Renoir, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on the Hill Local, Greenwich Cinema, Richmond Odeon*

PRACTICAL MAGIC (12)
Director: Griffin Dunne
Starring: Nicole Kidman, Sandra Bullock
Essentially a sibling soap-opera with a dash of mumbo-jumbo, *Practical Magic* sees Bullock and Kidman cast as two mismatched sisters raised from a line of witches and being an unlucky man who swings into their orbit. The canny star-pairing is soon spoilt by an over-egged eye-of-newt broth that mixes *Beowulf* with *Boyz n the City* and *The Witches of Eastwick*. Its spick-and-span surface masks the turmoil of undigested influences. *West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End and local cinemas*

Xan Brooks

GENERAL RELEASE

THE ACID HOUSE (18)
A trio of interrelated shorts culled from the stories of Irvine Welsh, *The Acid House* plays out in the down-and-dirty landscape of inner-city Edinburgh, and darts with hrio between a range of moods and tones. Less poised and populist than *Trainspotting*, but more earthy edgy and intense, too. *West End: Odeon Camden Town Local, Neuham Showcase*

ANTZ (PG)
See *The Independent Recommends*, right. *West End: UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero*

THE APPLE (SIB) (PG)
Seventeen-year-old Samira Makhmalbaf's precocious debut stages a true-life re-creation of the fortunes of Iran's Naderi sisters, raised in seclusion by their parents before being set loose in the world by a visiting social worker. Part docu-drama, part rites-of-passage fable, this is an extraordinary missive from a burgeoning Iranian film scene. *West End: Metro, Renoir*

BABE: PIG IN THE CITY (U)
The follow-up to *Babe* tosses the hapless "sheep-dog" into the midst of the city where he becomes the unlikely saviour of a bunch of assorted waifs. Knockabout comedy is kept to a minimum in favour of a bleak animatronic fairytale. *West End: Plaza, UCI Whiteleys And Local cinemas*

THE BOYS (18)
Out of jail after serving a sentence for GBH, eldest "boy" Brett Sprague (David Wenham) moves back into his mum's drab suburban home, terrorises his girlfriend and turns his younger brothers into petty henchmen. *The Boys* spotlights the downside of life Down Under - it's potent, predatory stuff. *Repertory: Prince Charles*

DOBERMANN (18)
Vincent Cassel's born-to-be-bad gangster struts and sneers his way through a gleamingly abstracted Paris while Teckey Karyo's bad-egg cop looks on balefully. It seems that this is what the new French cinema is all about: endless glibed carnage and iconic posing, plus a script that's going nowhere fast. *West End: Metro, Odeon Camden Town, Virgin Trocadero*

THE DREAM LIFE OF ANGELS (18)
See *The Independent Recommends*, right. *West End: ABC Swiss Centre*

ENEMY OF THE STATE (15)
Will Smith's fall-guy DA teams up with Gene Hackman's pensioned-off Pentagon warhorse, probes a political cover-up and gets embroiled in all manner of Big Brother-type trouble. *West End: Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Fulham Road And local cinemas*

LITTLE VOICE (15)
Rolled up in her bedroom, Jane Horrocks is perfecting strident Shirley Bassey/Judy Garland impersonations when she falls in with Michael Caine's sleazy impresario. Where director Mark Herman's last film, *Brassed Off*, was a whole and solid effort, *Little Voice* proves altogether more bitty. But bracing black comedy, Horrocks's vocal pyrotechnics, plus a marvellously weighted turn from Caine push it through to the final curtain. *West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End, Phoenix Cinema, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Fulham Road*

THE MASK OF ZORRO (PG)
This gaudy swashbuckler gallops full-speed through 19th-century California in the company of Antonio Banderas's authentically Hispanic do-gooder. A lot of colourful duels and clattering action setpieces. *West End: Odeon Kensington, Odeon Mezzanine, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI*

Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

MEET JOE BLACK (12)
Picking his way through Martin Brest's under-developed rehaul of *Death Takes a Holiday* goes Brad Pitt's aquiline Grim Reaper, who gets charmed round the everyday delights of Planet Earth by Anthony Hopkins' dying billionaire. The film has a few neat themes and a reliably solid turn from Hopkins, but it's too much a picture of disparate pieces. *West End: Empire Leicester Square, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero*

MULAN (U)
In this animated feature, a girl disguises herself as a soldier to spare her ailing father from the certain death of combat. It's one of the most visually innovative movies that Disney has ever made. *West End: Odeon Mezzanine Local, Acton Park Royal, Warner Village, Dagenham Warner Village, Edmonton Lee Valley UCI 12, Warner Village North Finchley, Hamersmith Virgin, Harrow Warner Village, Holloway Odeon, Peckham Premier, Streatham Odeon, Wimbledon Odeon*

THE OPPOSITE OF SEX (18)
See *The Independent Recommends*, right. *West End: Barbican Screen, Clapham Picture House, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Warner Village West End Local, Croydon Warner Village, Ed-monton Lee Valley UCI 12, Feltham Cinesworld The Movies, Warner Village Finchley Road, Harrow Warner Village, Sutton UCI 6, UCI Surrey Quays*

PI (15)
See *The Independent Recommends*, right. *West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Curzon Soho, Ritzy Cinema Repertory: Phoenix Cinema*

THE PRINCE OF EGYPT (U)
Animated feature which comes across as *The Ten Commandments* by way of Joseph and His Technicolor Dreamcoat. *West End: Empire Leicester Square, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero*

RUSH HOUR (15)
Jackie Chan and Chris Tucker star in this hit-and-miss affair. *West End: Odeon Marble Arch, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End*

THE SIEGE (15)
A rare Hollywood attempt to get to grips with contemporary geopolitics, *The Siege* winds up a hopelessly fingers-and-thumbs affair. *West End: Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Leicester Square, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea*

SITCOM (18)
In this scattergun satire of middle-class mores, director Francois Ozon takes abundant pleasure in dismantling a standard nuclear family. The result is savage and funny one moment, indulgent the next. *Repertory: Watermans Arts Centre*

SNAKE EYES (15)
Brian De Palma's Atlantic City-set conspiracy thriller stars Nicolas Cage and Gary Sinise. *Repertory: Prince Charles*

THE TRUMAN SHOW (PG)
See *The Independent Recommends*, right. *West End: Plaza*

WHAT DREAMS MAY COME (15)
Robin Williams perfects a topside simper as the dead chap who lights out to a cod-Impressionist heaven before jetting southward to rescue his suicide-bride. *West End: Warner Village West End Local, Edmonton Lee Valley UCI 12, Neuham Showcase*

THE INDEPENDENT RECOMMENDS

THE FIVE BEST FILMS

The Dream Life of Angels (18)
Erick Zonta's debut draws its strength from the contrasting personalities of Isa (Eldie Bouche) and Marie (Natacha Regnier), whose friendship comes alive in the drab environs of Lille.

The Opposite of Sex (18)
Christina Ricci plays bitch-on-wheels Dedee, shooting from the lip and causing havoc when she moves in with her mild-mannered brother. Don Roos's script bristles with acidulous one-liners.

The Truman Show (PG)
Peter Weir's ingenious, unsettling fantasy is, in the end, an escape movie - in the case of Truman Burbank, it's breaking out of the round-the-clock TV docu-soap that is his own life.

π (15)
Darren Aronofsky's debut, filmed in sooty black-and-white, tells the story of a genius mathematician. This stylish indie movie fearlessly combines *Wall Street*, Jewish mysticism and nightmarish headcases.

Antz (PG)
Computer-animated comedy voiced by a stellar cast features Woody Allen as a worker ant who becomes an unlikely war hero and opponent of the colony's totalitarian regime (right). Terrific fun.

ANTHONY QUINN

THE FIVE BEST PLAYS

The Street of Crocodiles (Queen's)
Triumphant revival of Theatre de Complicite's surreal, funny and searing plodge into the imagination of Polish-Jewish writer Bruno Schulz, shot dead by the Nazis in 1942. *To 20 Feb*

The Colour of Justice (Tricycle)
Enormously potent staged re-enactment of the Stephen Lawrence inquiry. It coincides with the uproar surrounding the fate of the policeman involved in the case. *To 6 Feb*

The Memory of Water (Vaudeville)
Alison Steadman (right) pulls off one of the funniest and truest drunk scenes ever in Shelagh Stephenson's fine play about sisters brought back together for their mother's funeral. *To 10 Apr*

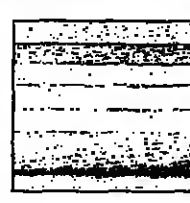


PAUL TAYLOR

THE FIVE BEST SHOWS

Monet in the 20th Century (Royal Academy)
The gardens and ponds at Giverny dissolve into elemental visions: fiery lights, haze, liquid reflections, voids and depths. The strange last works of Impressionism. *To 18 Apr*

Andreas Gursky (Serpentine Gallery)
Photographs 1994-98: wide-vision, high-finish, micro-detailed vistas of our world - stock-exchange floor, cityscape, airport, alpine valley - images filled with more than the eye can see (right). *To 7 Mar*



Bridget Riley (Abbey Hall Gallery, Kendal)
Retrospective of the top British abstractionist's career, from shimmering monochromes to colour, stripes, diagonals, and curves. *To 31 Jan*

Disasters of War (Volverhampton Art Gallery)
Three ages of war through etchings by Jacques Callot, Goya and Otto Dix. Black-and-white visions from the blackest of times. *To 20 Mar*

Willie Doherty (MOMA, Oxford)
Contemporary Irish artist, using photos and video to reflect on the imagery of terror and security - the road-block, the surveillance camera. *To 4 Apr*

TOM LUBBOCK

CINEMA

WEST END

ABC PANTON STREET (0870-902 0404) • Piccadilly Circus Elizabeth 11.50pm, 2.15pm, 4.20pm, 6.40pm, 9.10pm Dobermann 11.50am, 2.05pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm Little Voice 11.50am, 2.10pm, 4.25pm, 6.50pm, 9.05pm Practical Magic 12.20pm, 2.30pm, 4.35pm, 6.55pm, 9.25pm The Siege 12.25pm, 2.35pm, 4.40pm, 6.55pm, 9.30pm

ABC PICCADILLY (0171-287 4322 (from 1pm)) • Piccadilly Circus Hamam 11.50pm, 2.15pm, 4.20pm, 6.40pm, 9.10pm Dobermann 11.50am, 2.05pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm Little Voice 11.50am, 2.10pm, 4.25pm, 6.50pm, 9.05pm Practical Magic 12.20pm, 2.30pm, 4.35pm, 6.55pm, 9.25pm The Siege 12.25pm, 2.35pm, 4.40pm, 6.55pm, 9.30pm

ABC SHAFTESBURY AVENUE (0870-902 0402) • Leicester Square/Tottenham Court Road Class Trip 1.05pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm Texas Chainsaw Massacre 1.35pm, 3.55pm, 6.15pm, 8.35pm, 10.55pm

ABC SWISS CENTRE (0870-902 0403) • Leicester Square/Piccadilly Circus Buffalo 66 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm The End 3.55pm, 6.40pm The Governors 1.35pm, 6.20pm On the Beach 1.35pm, 6.20pm On the Beach 1.35pm, 6.20pm On the Beach 1.35pm, 6.20pm On the Beach 1.35pm, 6.20pm

ABC TOTTEHAM COURT ROAD (0870-902 0414) • Tottenham Court Road Little Voice 1.25pm, 3.55pm, 7pm, 9.40pm x (P) 1.25pm, 3.55pm, 7pm, 9.40pm The Governors 1.35pm, 6.20pm On the Beach 1.35pm, 6.20pm On the Beach 1.35pm, 6.20pm On the Beach 1.35pm, 6.20pm

BARBICAN SCREEN (0171-638 8891) • Barbican Village and Jackie 3pm, 6pm, 8.40pm The Opposite of Sex 6.15pm, 8.40pm

CHELSEA CINEMA (0171-351 3742) • Sloane Square Hilary and Jackie 1.10pm, 1.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm

CLAPHAM PICTURE HOUSE (0171-498 3323) • Clapham Common/Bulwer 1.10pm, 1.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm The Opposite of Sex 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.45pm, 9.15pm

CURZON MAYFAIR (0171-389 1720) • Green Park Jackie Chan and Jackie 1pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.40pm

CURZON MINEMA (0171-494 4153) • Hyde Park Corner/Kingsbridge Elizabeth 3pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm

CURZON SOHO (0171-734 2255 (12pm-6pm)) • Leicester Square/Tottenham Court Road Bulwer 1.45pm, 4.15pm, 6.45pm, 9pm Hilary and Jackie 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 9pm The Opposite of Sex 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.45pm, 9.15pm

EMPIRE LEICESTER SQUARE (0990-888990) • Leicester Square Meek Joe Black 12.20pm, 4pm, 7.45pm The Prince of Egypt 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm Psycho 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm

GATE NOTTING HILL (0171-727 4043) • Notting Hill Gate Hilary and Jackie 1pm, 3.35pm, 6.10pm, 8.50pm

HAMMERSMITH VIRGIN (0870-907 0718) • Ravenscourt Park/Hammersmith Bulwer 1.30pm, 4pm, 5.50pm, 8.40pm Little Voice 1.30pm, 3.50pm, 6.30pm, 9pm Meek Joe Black 12.50pm, 4.30pm, 7.10pm Practical Magic 1pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm

ICA CINEMA (0171-930 3547) • Charing Cross Gate Obscure Object of Desire 7pm The Polygraph 6.30pm, 8.30pm

METRO (0171-734 1506) • Piccadilly Circus/Leicester Square The Apple (Sib) 3pm, 5pm, 7pm, 9pm Dobermann 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm

NOTTING HILL CORONET (0171-727 6705) • Notting Hill Gate Bulwer 3pm, 6pm, 8.40pm

ODEON CAMDEN TOWN (0870-050007) • Camden Town 5.40pm, 2.15pm, 4.20pm, 6.40pm, 9.10pm Dobermann 11.50am, 2.05pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm Little Voice 11.50am, 2.10pm, 4.25pm, 6.50pm, 9.05pm Practical Magic 12.20pm, 2.30pm, 4.35pm, 6.55pm, 9.25pm The Siege 12.25pm, 2.35pm, 4.40pm, 6.55pm, 9.30pm

ODEON KENSINGTON (0870-050007) • High Street Kensington Bulwer 12.50pm, 4.10pm, 6.55pm, 9.40pm Enemy of the State 3.25pm, 9.15pm Hilary and Jackie 12.30pm, 3.30pm, 6.30pm, 9.30pm Little Voice 1.55pm, 4.30pm, 7.05pm, 9.40pm Meek Joe Black 12.45pm, 4.40pm, 8.35pm Practical Magic 1.20pm, 4pm, 6.40pm, 9.20pm The Siege 12.40pm, 6.30pm

ODEON LEICESTER SQUARE (0870-050007) • Leicester Square The Siege 12.55pm, 3.35pm, 5.55pm, 8.30pm

ODEON MARBLE ARCH (0870-050007) • Marble Arch Enemy of the State 12.15pm, 3.10pm, 6.05pm, 9pm Little Voice 1.20pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm Meek Joe Black 12.45pm, 4.40pm, 8.35pm Practical Magic 1.05pm, 3.45pm, 6.25pm, 9.05pm The Siege 12.50pm, 3.35pm, 6.20pm, 9.10pm

ODEON MEZZANINE (0870-050007) • Leicester Square Elizabeth 12.30pm, 3pm, 5.30pm, 8.10pm Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.20pm, 3.50pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm The Mask of Zorro 2.30pm, 5.15pm, 8.10pm Ronin 2.45pm, 5.50pm, 8.20pm There's Something About Mary 12.40pm, 3.10pm, 5.40pm, 8.15pm

ODEON SWISS COTTAGE (0870-050007) • Swiss Cottage Enemy of the State 12.10pm, 2.50pm, 5.35pm, 8.20pm Hilary and Jackie 12.20pm, 3.15pm, 5.45pm, 8.25pm Little Voice 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm Meek Joe Black 12.10pm, 3.50pm, 7.30pm Practical Magic 12.55pm, 2.40pm, 4.45pm, 7.10pm, 9.25pm The Siege 12.25pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.40pm The Siege 12.25pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.40pm

ODEON WEST END (0870-050007) • Leicester Square Enemy of the State 12.05pm, 2.45pm, 5.30pm, 8.25pm Little Voice 1.55pm, 4.10pm, 6.30pm, 8.55pm

PEPSI IMAX CINEMA (0171-494 4153) • Piccadilly Circus Everest 9.05pm 15 (IMAX) 9.05pm Practical Magic 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm T-Rex: Back to the Cretaceous (3-D) 11.30am, 1.35pm, 3.40pm, 5.45pm, 8pm, 10.05pm

PHOENIX CINEMA (0181-444 6789) • East Finchley Little Voice 2.15pm

PLAZA (0990-888990) • Piccadilly Circus Babe: Pig in the City 12.45pm, 3.25pm Out of Sight 5.50pm, 8.25pm Saving Private Ryan 3pm, 7.30pm Star Trek: Insurrection 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 8.55pm The Truman Show 1pm, 3.15pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm

RITZY CINEMA (0171-33 2239) BR/• Brickton Bulwer 4.20pm, 6.50pm, 9.10pm Hilary and Jackie 3.50pm, 6.25pm, 9pm Little Voice 2pm, 4.15pm, 7.25pm, 9.30pm Lottery Shorts Showcase 7pm The Opposite of Sex 2.20pm, 4.40pm, 7pm, 9.20pm (+ Short: Horseshoe x (P)) 3.10pm, 5.20pm, 7.20pm, 9.35pm (+ Short: The Abba's) Rien Ne Va Plus 2.30pm

SCREEN ON BAKER STREET (0171-935 2772) • Baker Street Bulwer 3.05pm, 6.25pm, 8.45pm The Opposite of Sex 2.25pm, 4.30pm, 6.40pm, 8.55pm

SCREEN ON THE GREEN (0171-226 3520) • Highbury & Islington Bulwer 3.50pm, 6.20pm, 8.45pm

SCREEN ON THE HILL (0171-435 3366) • Belsize Park Hilary and Jackie 3.10pm, 6.40pm, 9.10pm

UCI WHITELEYS (0990-888990) • Queensway 54 2.50pm, 5pm, 7.10pm, 9.40pm Bulwer 1.10pm, 3.50pm, 6.30pm, 9pm Enemy of the State 3.10pm, 6pm, 9.10pm Little Voice 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6.20pm, 8.50pm The Mask of Zorro 1pm Meek Joe Black 4.40pm, 8.30pm The Opposite of Sex 2.20pm, 4.50pm, 7.20pm, 9.50pm Practical Magic 1.30pm, 4.10pm, 6.50pm, 9.20pm The Prince of Egypt 2.10pm The Siege 4pm, 6.40pm, 9.30pm

VIRGIN CHELSEA (0870-907 0710) • Sloane Square/South Kensington 54 9.30pm Bulwer 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.40pm, 9.15pm Enemy of the State 2.30pm, 5.45pm, 8.45pm Little Voice 1pm, 3.15pm, 5.15pm, 7.15pm The Siege 12.45pm, 3.30pm, 6.15pm, 9pm

VIRGIN FULHAM ROAD (0870-907 0711) • South Kensington Enemy of the State 12.50pm, 3.40pm, 6.40pm, 9.20pm Little Voice 1.20pm, 4.30pm, 7.20pm, 9.30pm The Mask of Zorro 12.20pm, 3.10pm, 6.10pm, 9.10pm Meek Joe Black 1pm, 4.30pm, 8.15pm The Opposite of Sex 1.10pm, 3.20pm, 6pm, 9.10pm Practical Magic 1.40pm, 4.20pm, 7.20pm, 9.30pm

VIRGIN HAYMARKET (0870-907 0712) • Piccadilly Circus 54 2.10pm, 4.20pm, 6.40pm, 8.55pm Bulwer 1pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm My Name Is Joe 1.55pm, 3.40pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm

VIRGIN TROCADERO (0870-907 0713) • Piccadilly Circus 54 2.10pm, 4.20pm, 6.40pm, 8.55pm Bulwer 1pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm My Name Is Joe 1.55pm, 3.40pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm

VIRGIN TROCADERO (0870-907 0713) • Piccadilly Circus 54 2.10pm, 4.20pm, 6.40pm, 8.55pm Bulwer 1pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm My Name Is Joe 1.55pm, 3.40pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm

VIRGIN TROCADERO (0870-907 0713) • Piccadilly Circus 54 2.10pm, 4.20pm, 6.40pm, 8.55pm Bulwer 1pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm My Name Is Joe 1.55pm, 3.40pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm

VIRGIN TROCADERO (0870-907 0713) • Piccadilly Circus 54 2.10pm, 4.20pm, 6.40pm, 8.55pm Bulwer 1pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm My Name Is Joe 1.55pm, 3.40pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm

VIRGIN TROCADERO (0870-907 0713) • Piccadilly Circus 54 2.10pm, 4.20pm, 6.40pm, 8.55pm Bulwer 1pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm My Name Is Joe 1.55pm, 3.40pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm

RICHMOND
ODEON (08705 050007) BR/ Richmond Hillary And Jackie 12.30pm, 3.20pm, 6.10pm, 9pm Little Voice 2pm, 4.20pm, 7pm, 9.30pm Practical Magic 1.30pm, 3.50pm, 6.20pm, 9.20pm

ODEON STUDIO (08705 050007) BR/ Richmond Bulworth 1.40pm, 4.10pm, 6.50pm, 9.20pm Enemy of the State 2.30pm, 9pm The Mask of Zorro 12.30pm, 4.30pm, 8.20pm The Siege 12.40pm, 3.20pm, 6.20pm, 9.10pm

ROMFORD
ABC (08705 9020419) BR/ Romford Meet Joe Black 2.30pm, 7.20pm Practical Magic 2.30pm, 5.55pm, 8.25pm The Siege 2.15pm, 5.30pm, 8.10pm

ODEON LIBERTY 2 (08705 050007) BR/ Romford Enemy of the State 12.30pm, 3.10pm, 5.45pm, 8.30pm Little Voice 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm The Mask of Zorro 12.30pm, 4pm, 7.30pm The Parent Trap 12.45pm, 3.30pm, 6.20pm, 8.45pm Psycho 6.30pm, 8.20pm The Siege 12.45pm, 3.15pm, 5.50pm, 8.20pm Star Trek: Insurrection 1pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm

SIDCUP
ABC (08705 555131) BR/ Sidcup Little Voice 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm Meet Joe Black 3.15pm, 7.15pm

STAPLES CORNER
VIRGIN (08705 907017) BR/ Crickwood Bulworth 1.15pm, 3.50pm, 6.20pm, 8.50pm Enemy of the State 3pm, 5.50pm, 8.45pm Little Voice 1.45pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 9pm Meet Joe Black 2.45pm, 4.30pm, 8.15pm Practical Magic 1.30pm, 4.15pm, 6.45pm, 9.15pm The Siege 1.30pm, 4.05pm, 6.35pm, 9.15pm

STREATHAM
ABC (08705 9020415) BR/ Streatham Hill & Crickwood Meet Joe Black 3.40pm, 7.20pm The Prince of Egypt 1.50pm Psycho 2.20pm, 5.55pm, 8.25pm Star Trek: Insurrection 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm

ODEON (08705 050007) BR/ Streatham Hill & Crickwood Common Bulworth 1.30pm, 3.50pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm Enemy of the State 12.10pm, 2.55pm, 5.40pm, 8.25pm Little Voice 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6pm, 8.20pm Practical Magic 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6pm, 8.30pm The Siege 1pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm

STRAITFORD
NEW STRATFORD PICTURE HOUSE (0181 555 3366) BR/ Stratford East Bulworth 4pm, 6.50pm, 9.10pm Little Voice 1.35pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm Meet Joe Black 1.15pm, 4.45pm, 8.15pm Practical Magic 1.20pm, 4.15pm, 6.35pm, 9pm The Prince of Egypt 1.45pm

SURREY QUAYS
UCI (0990 888990) BR/ Surrey Quays Bulworth 4.10pm, 7.20pm, 9.50pm Enemy of the State 3pm, 5.50pm, 8.45pm Little Voice 3.50pm, 6.20pm, 8.30pm The Mask of Zorro 3.30pm, 6.45pm, 9.10pm The Opposite of Sex 4pm, 7pm, 9.45pm Practical Magic 4.20pm, 6.35pm, 9pm The Siege 6.40pm, 9.30pm Star Trek: Insurrection 3.30pm, 6.30pm, 9.20pm

SUTTON
UCI (0990 888990) BR/ Sutton Moor Enigma of the State 3.45pm, 6.30pm, 9.15pm Little Voice 4.15pm, 6.40pm, 9pm The Mask of Zorro 3.30pm Meet Joe Black 6.45pm, 9.30pm The Opposite of Sex 6.50pm, 9.40pm Practical Magic 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.45pm The Siege 9.30pm Star Trek: Insurrection 4.30pm, 7pm

TURNPIKE LANE
CORONET (0181 888 2519) BR/ Turnpike Lane Enigma of the State 3pm, 5.45pm, 8.20pm Meet Joe Black 3.30pm, 7.25pm The Siege 3.35pm, 6pm, 8.30pm

OXFORD
ODEON (08705 050007) BR/ Oxford Meet Joe Black 12.15pm, 3.55pm, 7.35pm Practical Magic 1pm, 4pm, 6.25pm, 8.50pm

WALTHAMSTON
ABC (08705 9020424) BR/ Walthamstow Central Little Voice 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm Meet Joe Black 2.10pm, 7.20pm Psycho 2pm, 5.10pm, 8.20pm

WALTON ON THAMES
THE SCREEN AT WALTON (01932 252825) BR/ Walton on Thames Little Voice 3.30pm, 6.40pm, 8.50pm Meet Joe Black 3pm, 7.15pm

WELL HALL
CORONET (0181 850 3351) BR/ Eltham Enigma of the State 3pm, 5.45pm, 8.20pm Little Voice 3pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm

WILLESDEAN
BELLE-VUE (0181 830 0822) BR/ Willesden Green The Prince of Egypt 4.45pm Psycho 6.30pm, 9pm

WIMBLEDON
ODEON (08705 050007) BR/ Wimbledon & Southfields Enigma of the State 2.30pm, 5.25pm, 8.20pm Little Voice 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm Meet Joe Black 12.25pm, 3.55pm, 7.30pm Practical Magic 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.45pm The Siege 6pm, 8.45pm The Siege 6pm, 8.30pm Star Trek: Insurrection 1.45pm, 3.50pm

WOODFORD
ABC (0181 989 3463) BR/ South Woodford Little Voice 2.10pm, 4.20pm, 6.30pm, 8.40pm Meet Joe Black 2.30pm, 7.30pm The Siege 2.40pm, 5.45pm, 8.20pm

WOOLWICH
CORONET (0181 854 5043) BR/ Woolwich Arsenal The Mask of Zorro 4pm, 8.10pm Practical Magic 4pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm

CINEMA

REPERTORY

LONDON
CINE LUMIERE Queensbury Place, SW7 (0171 838 2144/2146) Classe de Neige (NC) 6.30pm, 8.30pm

NFT South Bank, SE1 (0171 928 3232) Orders to 2.30pm Forgive Me Not (at New River Cinema) 7.15pm The Merchant of Four Seasons (18) 6.30pm Bremen Freedom (18) 8.30pm The Spanish Prisoner (PG) 8.45pm

PRINCE CHARLES Leicester Place, WC2 (0171 437 8181) The Wedding Singer (12) 1pm Lethal Weapon 4 (15) 3.30pm Little Voice (15) 6.30pm Hana-Bi (18) 9pm

THEATRE

WEST END

Ticket availability details are for today; times and prices for the week's running times include intervals. Seats at all prices. Seats at some prices. — Returns only. Madness — (1): Sun, (3): Tue, (4): Wed, (5): Thur, (6): Fri, (7): Sat.

ALARMES AND EXCURSIONS Michael Frayn's new comedy about a dinner party which is interrupted by mysterious messages from the past. Michael Frayn, 11.15pm, 1.15pm, 3.15pm, 5.15pm, 7.15pm, 9.15pm. (18) 8.30pm

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THEATRE

WEST END

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MONDAY RADIO

PICK OF THE DAY

IN TONIGHT'S edition of Football Legends (7.30pm R5 Live), Jimmy Armfield looks at the career of the goalkeeper Gordon Banks (right). It's a thorough resume, from the early glories at Chelsea to the car accident in 1972 which abruptly ended his playing days. In Postscript (9.10pm R3), Tony Benn introduces extracts from the campaigning political

writings of William Morris, an artist whose socialist principles would confound Lord Leslie Timmuss, the petulant bulldog creation of John Mortimer. Rik Mayall reads the latest Timmuss novel, *The Sound of Trumpets*, in Book at Bedtime (10.45pm R4), making good use of the braying tone he perfected in *The Young Ones*.

DOMINIC CAVENTISH



a selection of songs by French composers reacting against the 19th-century Romantic tradition. Lisa Milna (soprano), Sarah Connolly (mezzo), Iain Burnside (piano). Satie: Trois poemes d'amour. Chabrier: Pastorale des cochers roses. Milhaud: Catalogue des fleurs. Poulenc: Quatre poemes de Guillaume Apollinaire. Roussel: Jazz dans la nuit; Le bachelier de Salamandre. Satie: Trois melodies. Honegger: Petits cours de morale. Rosenthal: Chansons de Monsieur Bleu (excerpts).

10.45 Mixing it. For Harry Parich, the American composer, theorist and creator of musical instruments, the way an instrument looked was almost as important as the way it sounded. Twenty-five years after his death, Mark Russell and Robert Sandall explore the legacy of a man who described himself as a musician seduced by carpentry.

11.30 Jazz Notes.

12.00 Composer of the Week: Henry Purcell. (R)

1.00 - 6.00 Through the Night.

RADIO 4 (92.4-94.6MHz FM)

6.00 Today.

9.00 NEWS; Start the Week.

9.45 Serial: The Victorian Internet.

10.00 NEWS; Women's Hour.

11.00 NEWS; Great Expectations.

11.30 Bangers and Mash.

12.00 NEWS; You and Yours.

12.57 Weather.

1.00 The World at One.

1.30 Counterpoint.

2.00 NEWS; The Archers.

2.45 Afternoon Play: Dead Men Tell No Tales.

3.00 NEWS; Money Box Live: 0870 010 0444.

3.30 The Vale. (R)

3.45 This Scattered Isle. (R)

4.00 NEWS; The Food Programme.

4.30 Turning World.

5.00 PM.

5.57 Weather.

6.00 Six O'Clock News.

6.30 Just a Minute.

7.00 NEWS; The Archers.

7.45 Front Row. Mark Lawson with the arts programme.

7.45 Inner Voices. Five sparkling studies of modern life written and performed by Rickie Beadla Blair.

8.00 NEWS; Hope in Oklahoma. American historian John Hope Franklin returns to his birthplace - Rentiesville, Oklahoma. Established at the turn of the century, it was one of a handful of all-black towns created as havens from segregation. Can the town survive today with a population of only 88?

8.30 In Business. 'Over a Barrel'. Oil prices plunge - oil giants merge. Peter Day reports on the upheavals sweeping through the oil industry.

9.00 NEWS; Nature: Sterlings. A look at the startling, uncovering some surprising secrets of a bird once considered common but now in serious decline.

9.30 Start the Week. Jeremy Paxman and his guests set the cultural agenda for the week.

10.00 The World Tonight. With Robin Lustig.

10.45 Book at Bedtime: The Sound of Trumpets. John Mortimer's novel is set in Blair's Britain, with Terry Flinton standing as New Labour's candidate for the safe Conservative seat of Hartscombe and Worsfield South. The by-election has been caused by the mysterious death of the sitting MP. Read by Rik Mayall. Abridged in ten parts by Neville Teller. See Pick of the Day.

11.00 Radio 4 Appal. Melvyn Bregg speaks on behalf of the National Library for the Blind, a charity which provides books for the visually impaired.

11.02 Espadrial Street. (R)

11.30 At the Foot of the Mountain.

12.00 News.

12.30 The Late Book: Round Ireland with a Frigate. (R)

12.45 Shipping Forecast.

1.00 As World Service.

5.30 World News.

5.35 Shipping Forecast.

5.40 Inshore Forecast.

5.45 Prayer for the Day.

5.47 - 6.00 Farming Today.

RADIO 4 LW (198kHz)

9.45 - 10.00 Daily Service.

12.00 - 12.04 News Headlines; Shipping Forecast. 5.54 - 5.57 Shipping Forecast. 11.30 - 12.00 Today in Parliament.

RADIO 5 LIVE (93.9-95.8MHz MW)

6.00 Breakfast.

9.00 Nicky Campbell.

12.00 The Midday News.

1.00 Ruscoe and Co.

4.00 Drive.

7.00 News Extra.

7.30 Football Legends.

Jimmy Armfield talks to some of the great footballers of the past. This week, he meets World Cup-winning goalkeeper Gordon Banks. See Pick of the Day.

8.00 Trevor Brookings.

Monday Match. Full commentary on tonight's FA Cup fourth-round tie between Oxford and Chelsea.

10.00 Late Night Live. Nick Robinson sets tomorrow's agenda today. Including at 10.30 a full round-up of the day's sport, and at 11.00 a late news briefing.

1.00 Up All Night.

5.00 - 6.00 Morning Reports.

CLASSIC FM (100.1-101.9MHz FM)

6.00 Nick Baker. 6.00 Henry Kelly. 12.00 Requests.

6.30 Chris Evans. 9.30 Mark Crick. 6.30 Newswatch. 7.00 Smooth Classics at Seven. 9.00 Evening Concert. 11.00 Alan Martin. 2.00 Concerto. 3.00 - 6.00 Mark Griffiths.

VIRGIN RADIO (125.197-126.0kHz MW 105.8MHz FM)

6.30 Chris Evans. 9.30 Mark Crick. 1.00 Nick Abbot. 4.00 Harriet Scott. 7.30 Pete & Geoff. 10.00 James Merritt. 1.00 Steve Power. 4.30 - 6.30 Richard Allen.

WORLD SERVICE RADIO (198kHz LW)

1.00 The World Today. 1.30 Westway. 1.45 Record News. 2.00 The World Today. 2.30 The Next Big Thing. 3.00 The World Today. 3.30 Sports Roundup. 3.30 World Business Report. 3.45 Insight. 4.00 - 7.00 The World Today (4.00-7.00).

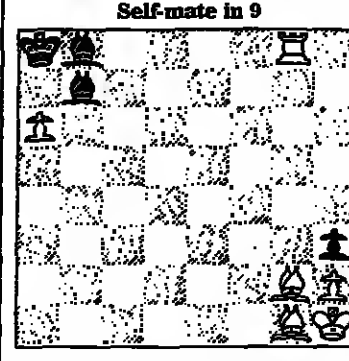
TALK RADIO

6.00 Big Boys Breakfast with David Banks & Nick Ferrari. 9.00 Scott Chisholm. 1.00 Anna Rabburn. 4.00 Peter Dealey. 5.00 The Sports Zone. 8.00 James Whelan. 1.00 - 6.00 Ian Collins.

INDEPENDENT PURSUITS

CHES

ION SPEELMAN



Self-mate in 9

G Broecker.

London Chess Fortnightly 1892

IN THIS problem White is required to force Black to mate him in nine moves. Not much to do with normal chess, you may think, and I can hardly demur too strongly. But before the solution at the end, here is a digression about analogous ideas in actual play.

Unless it is particularly as we say, "sharp", there is generally a choice of two or three reasonable moves in a middlegame or opening position. Of course, there are many forcing situations in contradiction to this: tactical sequences in which you must recapture, parry a check, prevent a direct attack on the king or perhaps meet some more strategic threat (which will normally involve changing the pawn structure in some way - for example, quite often it's absolutely essential to block a pawn's advance to prevent critical lines being opened).

But the principle remains that at these relatively early stages, when there are plenty of pieces on the board, you often have quite a broad choice: a choice which, however,

tends to narrow as the endgame approaches.

This may seem odd - surely when there's more room there will be more reasonable squares for your pieces; but the thing is that any weaknesses which require defending - or of the opponent's to attack - can only be protected/attacked by the small number of men now available.

This restriction of choice finds its purest form in king and pawn endings, in which often there will be a single good move. And especially when the pawn structure is fixed, the kings may have to dance around in exceedingly complex ways in order to gain or deny entry to each other.

Here, for the kings read bishops and rook. In order to solve the problem, we need to consider where the rook needs to be with Black to move, depending on the number of squares between the bishops.

With no squares in between, the obvious case is Bc6 vs Bb7, when it must be on b8.

With one square between, eg Bb5 vs Bb7, White should play 1 Rb1! Bc6 2 Rb1!

Similarly, with two squares between it should be on d8, three e8 and four f8.

This gives the solution:

1 Rb1! Bc6 2 Rb2 Bb7 3 Rb3 Bc6 4 Rb4 Bc7 5 Rb5 Bc8 6 Rb6 Bc9 7 Rb7 Bc10 8 Rb8 Bc11 9 Rb9 Bc12

Another line goes:

1 Rb1 Bc6 2 Rb2 Bb7 3 Rb3 Bc6 4 Rb4 Bc7 5 Rb5 Bc8 6 Rb6 Bc9 7 Rb7 Bc10 8 Rb8 Bc11 9 Rb9 Bc12

10 Rb10 Bc13 11 Rb11 Bc14 12 Rb12 Bc15 13 Rb13 Bc16 14 Rb14 Bc17 15 Rb15 Bc18 16 Rb16 Bc19 17 Rb17 Bc20 18 Rb18 Bc21 19 Rb19 Bc22

20 Rb20 Bc23 21 Rb21 Bc24 22 Rb22 Bc25 23 Rb23 Bc26 24 Rb24 Bc27 25 Rb25 Bc28 26 Rb26 Bc29 27 Rb27 Bc30 28 Rb28 Bc31 29 Rb29 Bc32

30 Rb30 Bc33 31 Rb31 Bc34 32 Rb32 Bc35 33 Rb33 Bc36 34 Rb34 Bc37 35 Rb35 Bc38 36 Rb36 Bc39 37 Rb37 Bc40 38 Rb38 Bc41 39 Rb39 Bc42

40 Rb40 Bc43 41 Rb41 Bc44 42 Rb42 Bc45 43 Rb43 Bc46 44 Rb44 Bc47 45 Rb45 Bc48 46 Rb46 Bc49 47 Rb47 Bc50 48 Rb48 Bc51 49 Rb49 Bc52

50 Rb50 Bc53 51 Rb51 Bc54 52 Rb52 Bc55 53 Rb53 Bc56 54 Rb54 Bc57 55 Rb55 Bc58 56 Rb56 Bc59 57 Rb57 Bc60 58 Rb58 Bc61 59 Rb59 Bc62

60 Rb60 Bc63 61 Rb61 Bc64 62 Rb62 Bc65 63 Rb63 Bc66 64 Rb64 Bc67 65 Rb65 Bc68 66 Rb66 Bc69 67 Rb67 Bc70 68 Rb68 Bc71 69 Rb69 Bc72

70 Rb70 Bc73 71 Rb71 Bc74 72 Rb72 Bc75 73 Rb73 Bc76 74 Rb74 Bc77 75 Rb75 Bc78 76 Rb76 Bc79 77 Rb77 Bc80 78 Rb78 Bc81 79 Rb79 Bc82

80 Rb80 Bc83 81 Rb81 Bc84 82 Rb82 Bc85 83 Rb83 Bc86 84 Rb84 Bc87 85 Rb85 Bc88 86 Rb86 Bc89 87 Rb87 Bc90 88 Rb88 Bc91 89 Rb89 Bc92

90 Rb90 Bc93 91 Rb91 Bc94 92 Rb92 Bc95 93 Rb93 Bc96 94 Rb94 Bc97 95 Rb95 Bc98 96 Rb96 Bc99 97 Rb97 Bc100 98 Rb98 Bc101 99 Rb99 Bc102

100 Rb100 Bc103 101 Rb101 Bc104 102 Rb102 Bc105 103 Rb103 Bc106 104 Rb104 Bc107 105 Rb105 Bc108 106 Rb106 Bc109 107 Rb107 Bc110 108 Rb108 Bc111 109 Rb109 Bc112

110 Rb110 Bc113 111 Rb111 Bc114 112 Rb112 Bc115 113 Rb113 Bc116 114 Rb114 Bc117 115 Rb115 Bc118 116 Rb116 Bc119 117 Rb117 Bc120 118 Rb118 Bc121 119 Rb119 Bc122

120 Rb120 Bc123 121 Rb121 Bc124 122 Rb122 Bc125 123 Rb123 Bc126 124 Rb124 Bc127 125 Rb125 Bc128 126 Rb126 Bc129 127 Rb127 Bc130 128 Rb128 Bc131 129 Rb129 Bc132

130 Rb130 Bc133 131 Rb131 Bc134 132 Rb132 Bc135 133 Rb133 Bc136 134 Rb134 Bc137 135 Rb135 Bc138 136 Rb136 Bc139 137 Rb137 Bc140 138 Rb138 Bc141 139 Rb139 Bc142

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